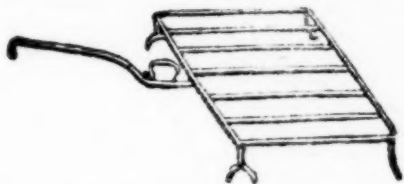


COBBETT'S WEEKLY POLITICAL REGISTER.

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"At last, it will come to a question of actual starvation, or fighting for food; and when it comes to that point, *I know* that Englishmen will never lie down and die by hundreds by the way-side." — *Register*, 20th October, 1815.

RURAL WAR. SPECIAL COMMISSIONS.

TO THE PEOPLE OF HAMPSHIRE AND WILTSHIRE.

London, 6th December, 1830.

COUNTRYMEN AND FRIENDS,

THE BLOODY OLD TIMES, that sanguinary crew who hunted poor CASHMAN to the gallows, who bellowed for the blood of the WATSONS, who urged the King of France, on his restoration, to murder a large part of the people of France, who defended the massacre of the Protestants at Nismes; that bloody sheet, that most infamous of all the parts of the mercenary and infamous daily papers of London; that bloody newspaper bawled for SPECIAL COMMISSIONS, and Special Commissions are about to sally forth upon *Hampshire* and *Wiltshire*, in one of which Special Commissions is the name of SERJEANT WILDE! SCOTT ELDON (a name and a man to be borne in mind!) expressed the other day his "infinite satisfaction" that Special Commissions were going forth "to expound the law to the ignorant men" who were to be tried; but, then, if what SCOTT ELDON related, on the same day, were true, a set of interpreters ought to go with each Special Commission; for he said that he had been informed that some of the jails were full of foreigners!

But how comes it that these *two* counties are selected for these *Special Commissions*? And why could not the *Squires*, by holding special sessions, as in *Kent*, have done the business? Let me stop here to observe upon this matter. Amongst the silly, or rather knavish, boastings about our "*happy constitution*," is, that all men are tried before, and sentenced by, JUDGES who are *independent even of the King*; who, when once appointed, cannot be displaced even by the King himself, unless they be first proved to have been guilty of some high crime. To keep them from all undue bias they cannot be members of the House of Commons; and though they sit in, they cannot vote in, the House of Lords, except such of them as are Peers. And *thus* is their purity and impartiality secured; and this is one of the great boasts of the vile knaves, who wish to uphold the present system. And while our *infamous press* is trumpeting this boast about the world, there is a *justice of the peace*, down at Canterbury, sentencing men to transportation for life, while he and all those who sit upon the bench and co-operate with him, derive their authority from the ministry of the day, are appointed by their sole will, and may, at any moment, and that, too, without cause assigned, be turned out of their offices! And these men can now transport for life, and that, too, in virtue of laws which, perhaps (as is actually the case with this Knatchbull), they have themselves assisted to pass! A few years ago a law was passed, and is now in force, to transport men for poaching; and the justices of the peace, many of whom assisted to make this law, were empowered to pass such sentence! Poh! you rascally knaves, who grind paragraphs and pamphlets about the "*independence of our judges*"! Poh! you vile Scotch and Irish rascals! Keep your breath to cool your burgoon and tatics: you will not persuade the people of England to admire a state

of things like this. This is one of the **GREAT WRONGS** that we now feel. In nineteen cases out of twenty, the common people have now *no trial by jury*, and are judged by men appointed and removeable at the absolute will of the ministry of the day. Is this what the enemies of real reform call one of the "*institutions of the country*"? This is one of George the Third and George the Fourth's *institutions*. Would a reformed Parliament leave this "*institution*" untouched?

But, again I say, why send *Special Commissioners* into Hampshire and Wiltshire only? **BARING** and **BENETT** live in them, to be sure; and of *Barings* there are no less than *four* in the House of houses! But though this is, doubtless, a great deal, and though Kent, Sussex, and Surrey, are provided for by the Winter Circuit, why leave out Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Lincolnshire, and, indeed, why leave out any except the **TALKING COUNTIES**; but, at any rate, why leave out *Norfolk*? There is a county as big and as populous as the two others put together; and there the Rural War has been far more general than in either of the counties of Haunts or Wilts. There has been destruction of machinery of all sorts, and particularly **COERCION ON THE PARSONS**. And this is, after all, the most ticklish thing; for this is *Norfolk Petition* put into execution in what was deemed its most desperate part. Every-where the Norfolk *baws* seem to have the parsons first in their eye. In my last I inserted several proofs of this; and every post adds greatly to the number, amongst which, as an instance of the discriminating powers of the *baws* of Norfolk, take the following from the *Norfolk Chronicle* of the 4th instant.

On Monday a number of persons of the labouring class assembled at Long Stratton, and proceeded to the Swan Inn, where the *Rev. Mr. Walford's tithe-audit* was about to be held, and declared they would not suffer the *Rev. Gentleman* to receive his tithes, nor the dinner to be served up, unless he would agree to a reduction; their demand not being complied with, they hustled the *Rev. Gentleman*, and treated him in a very brutish manner,

and afterwards went to his house and broke the windows. They also behaved in a similar manner to the *Rev. Mr. Wiggett the Minister of Moulton*, who happened to be there, and but for the spirited interference of a neighbouring gentleman, who rushed in among them and rescued him, they would probably have done him a serious injury. On the next day (Tuesday) a similar scene of riot and confusion would probably have taken place at Forcett, it being the day fixed for the *tithe-audit of the Rev. Mr. Jack*, of that Parish. The *Rev. Gentleman*, however, being warned of what was intended, left his house early in the morning, and ordered his servants to distribute the meat which had been provided for the *tithe feast, among the poor of the parish*. About 10 o'clock a number of riotous persons assembled in the village and proceeded to the parsonage-house, where, on being informed that Mr. Jack was not at home, they would not believe the report, and *ransacked the house in search of him*, vowing vengeance against him; and not being able to find him they proceeded to the *poor-house* and *pulled down a part of it*. We do not learn, however, that they in any case carried off any property. *Similar proceedings took place at Saxlingham*, but a party of military arrived and dispersed the mob. A numerous party of labourers assembled on Tuesday, at the Haddiscar, Crown, in Toft, where the *tithe-audit of the Rev. Thomas Ellison* was to be held; they broke the windows and furniture, and prevented the dinner taking place, and kept the *Rev. Gentleman* in bodily fear till half-past ten at night.

And can this Church stand? Can this monstrous mass of abuses remain any longer to oppress and insult this nation? If these labourers had read every line of the *History of the Protestant Reformation*; if they had read the second volume as well as the first, and had not only acquired a perfect knowledge as to the *origin of tithes*, but also as to the ancient mode of *distributing them*; if they had read all the Holy Scriptures, all the Fathers of the Church, all the canon-law, all the common law, all the statute-law; if, in short, they had all been profound and honest lawyers, and had known as well as I know that the tithes belonged, and still belong, in right and in law, to the indigent labourers more than they do to the parson, and that what is called *church property* is, in fact, *public property*; if all these sources of knowledge had been open to them, and if this just conclusion had been settled in their minds; if they had ascertained with legal precision, worthy of so many

Lords Chief Justice, the difference in the sources of *rent* and of *tithes*, they could not have acted with more just discrimination than that which marked their conduct in the above cases. But, all over the country, particularly in Sussex, but, indeed, every-where, they have distinguished between the holders of *private* property and the holders of *public* property, for which latter, too, they see *that nothing is done*, that nothing is *given*, that, in most cases, *no show even of service* is rendered by those who actually pocket the amount of the tithes.

In NORFOLK PETITION we were for an *application of a large part of the church property to public purposes*. The Baws are making the application without an act of Parliament; and the Government may be assured ninety-nine hundredths of the people, in the *middle rank of life*, approve of their conduct. Speaking of the people, with the exception of the aristocracy, the corrupt corporate bodies, and the clergy themselves, there is not one man in the whole kingdom, rich or poor, who is not for an appropriation of the church property, as it is called, to public purposes; not only the *tithes*, but the college lands and those of the deans and chapters; and no minister, be he who he may, will be able to get along for two years, and I hardly think for one year, unless he listen to the nation's voice as to *this matter*. The burden of the tithes is far from being the sole cause of the people's dislike of the clergy; the conduct, that is to say, the general conduct, of the beneficed clergy; their non-residence, their pluralities, their treatment of their curates, their being justices of the peace, and the most severe ones too; and, then, the crying injustice of a rector or vicar taking totally away from a parish a thousand or two pounds a year, and leaving the man who does the duty a hundred! It is notorious that, from these causes, and from other concurrent causes, the country churches are *absolutely deserted*. Every one who has eyes to see, must see, that, as to religion and morals, the establishment is become of no use, and

is, indeed, mischievous, instead of being useful. Then again, it has every-where and on all occasions been long observed, that the parsons are the bold defenders of *all abuses* and *all corruptions*; that *they* are ready to defend things which *all other* men confess to be bad; and that towards those, towards all and every one of those, who have endeavoured to cause a reform of abuses, they have shown a degree of bitterness, of implacable and foul malignity, that has been shown by *no other* men of any description. Even the *boroughmongers* themselves have been less savage, in this respect, than these black-coated abettors of corruption. And they seem, whenever they are not in immediate dread, to persevere to the last. For my own part, I have been a constant object of their malignity for the last twenty years of my life. They have shown their malignity towards *every man* who has been a foe of corruption; but especially towards me, in their eagerness to pursue and destroy whom, they seem to have forgotten "the whore of Babylon," and even the devil himself.

One of these fat and malignant fellows, who calls himself "the Reverend" Charles Day, LL. B., Vicar of Rushmere and Playford, Suffolk," has just published a pamphlet, price *one penny*, the object of which is to wheedle the labourers of his parishes and neighbourhood to be content to *eat potatoes*, while he greases his rosy gills with roast beef and turkeys. He could not, however, discharge this part of his ghostly duties, without, at the same time making an attack *upon me*, though he had, I dare say, never seen me, and though he says that his parishioners know nothing at all of me; but urged on by his irresistible hellishness, he thus drags me in: "My dear parishioners: I feel it to be my duty to address a few plain words to you upon a subject which many of you have not only brought before me, but which has also been a subject of conversation among yourselves. You have heard that certain cards and bills have been scattered about the town of Ipswich and neighbourhood, as also about

“our own parish: you have likewise
 “heard that threatening letters have
 “been sent to respectable persons, as
 “well as that a great deal of property
 “has been *destroyed by fire*. Now, it is
 “my desire to say a few words to you,
 “my poor friends, that you may be en-
 “couraged to *keep separate* from per-
 “sons who are connected or connecting
 “themselves with such wicked pro-
 “ceedings. There are, and have been
 “for a long time, going about the
 “country, a number of *desperate bad*
 “*characters promoters of sedition and*
 “*insubordination*, and also an *envious,*
 “*restless individual*, of whom, by-the-
 “by, you know nothing, called VERA-
 “CITY CORBETT, a sort of *travelling*
 “*mountebank*, who, under the pretence
 “of making some persons happy, and
 “others very wise, gets them to put
 “their money into *his* pocket; this
 “being done, he throws about a few
 “brands of discord, and says just
 “enough to make the uneducated part
 “of his hearers *dissatisfied* with every-
 “thing and every body, and marches
 “off, having left behind him nothing,
 “save the remembrance that he had
 “*trotted away with their money*, which
 “they had foolishly given *him* to make
 “them miserable. However, I will not
 “detain you in writing about a man
 “who blows *hot or cold*, and *if he*
 “*speaks the truth*, it is very much
 “doubted whether *it is not by mistake*.”

A company of this vagabond's “*dear*
 parishioners” took his pamphlet, and
 sent it off to me, paying 1s. 4d. postage
 to get it to me, and telling me, that
 they, who were amongst my readers,
 should have deemed his canting wheed-
 ling rubbish unworthy of notice, had
 my name not been in it. Now, here is a
 fellow, gobbling up the produce of two
 livings, of whom I never said a word in
 my life; here is this fat and lazy and
 luxurious fellow, wallowing in super-
 abundance, taken by *compulsion* too,
 from the toil of two parishes, with
 audacity sufficient to enable him to stig-
 matise as mountebank and selfish im-
 postor, a man who has never, in the
 whole course of his life, touched, di-
 rectly or indirectly, one single farthing

of public money. If some friend at
 Rushmere will write to me, postage
 paid, I will send him, for the use of the
 two parishes, a copy of the *History of*
the Protestant Reformation; and if they
 read that, and particularly the *Intro-*
duction to the Second Volume, they will
 see what sort of *right* Parson Day has
 to his tithes. I will also send them a
 few copies of the “*Poor-man's Friend*,”
 and of the London Petition to the King
 (which he did not receive) and of my
 recent petition to the two Houses of
 Parliament. When they have read these,
 they will see the very good reasons for
 Parson Day's *hating me*.

But this fellow is by no means sin-
 gular in this respect: all the whole crew,
 in all parts of the country; high and
 low, old and young, with very, very few
 exceptions, have, for about twenty-two
 years, acted the same part towards me.
 The whole body has always been on
 the side of speculation, corruption, and
 abuses of all sorts: no matter of what
 kind it has been; this body has always
 been on its side. It was on the side of
 Trotter and Dundas; on the side of
 Mother Clarke and the Duke of York;
 on the side of Perceval and Castlereagh
 in the seat-selling affair; on the side of
 the Italian witnesses against the poor
 Queen. Such has *always* been the con-
 duct of this body; always the foremost
 to call for coercive measures; the
 loudest in applauding them when adopt-
 ed, and the most active and severe in
 carrying them into execution. It was
 a *parson* (Hay) who was the presiding
 magistrate at Manchester on the bloody
 16th of August, 1819, and he was im-
 mediately afterwards rewarded by having
 the great living of Rochdale, in Lan-
 cashire, given to him by the Archbishop
 of Canterbury, in addition to a great
 living that he already had in Yorkshire.

Such has been the uniform conduct
 of this body of men, and such has been
 their conduct in all respects, that it is
 notorious that the country churches
 are, as I have said, almost wholly de-
 serted by the common people; so that
 the establishment is become, in fact, of
 no use at all, and, at any rate, answer
 none of the purposes for which it was

intended. In the next number of *TWO-PENNY-TRASH*, which will be published on the first of January, I will address to the working people a clear and comprehensive account of the origin, the object, the just application, and the present unjust application, of the tithes; and when this shall be before the public, it will be seen that plain common-sense, without any book-learning; and, indeed, that Nature herself, has shown to the labourers, that this part of the produce of the earth must in justice belong, in part, at least, to them, or, at least, to such of them as are in want; nature, instinct, if they were destitute of all reasoning faculties, would forbid them to regard a tenth part of all the produce of the earth to belong, of right, to one man in each parish, and that man neither the owner nor the tiller of any part of that same land.

In the meanwhile, however, the parsons are *reducing their tithes* with a tolerable degree of alacrity! It seems to come from them like drops of blood from the heart; but it comes; and it must *all* come now; or England will never again know even the appearance of peace. "Out of evil comes good." We are not, indeed, upon that mere maxim, "to do evil that good may come from it." But without entering at present into the *motives* of the working people, it is unquestionable that their acts have produced good, and great good too. They have been always told, and they are told now, and by the very parson that I have quoted above, that their acts of violence, and particularly the burnings, can *do them no good*, but *add to their wants*, by destroying the food that *they would have to eat*. Alas! they know better: they know that one thrashing-machine takes wages from ten men; and they also know that *they* should have none of this food; and that *potatoes and salt* do not burn! Therefore, this argument is not worth a straw. Besides, they see and feel that *the good comes*, and comes *instantly* too. They see that they *do* get some bread, in consequence of the destruction of part of the corn; and while they see this, you attempt in vain to persuade

them, that that which they have done is *wrong*. And as to one effect, that of *making the parsons reduce their tithes*, it is hailed as *a good* by ninety-nine-hundredths even of men of considerable property; while there is not a single man in the country who does not clearly trace the reduction to the acts of the labourers, and especially to the *fires*; for it is to the terror of these, and not the bodily force, that has prevailed. To attempt to persuade either farmers or labourers, that the tithes do not do them any harm, is to combat plain common sense. They must know, and they do know, that whatever is received by the parson is just so much *taken from them*, except that part which he may lay out for *productive labour in the parish*; and that is a mere trifle compared with what he gives to the East and West Indies, to the wine-countries, to the footmen, and to other *unproductive* labourers. In short, the tithe-owners take away from the agricultural parishes a tenth part of the gross produce, which in this present state of abuse of the institution, they apply to purposes not only not beneficial, but generally mischievous to the people of those parishes.

The accounts from Cambridgeshire say, that *since the terrible fires* that have taken place in that county, "the magistrates have met, and resolved *immediately* to make inquiry into the *actual state and condition of the poor in every parish of the county*." Very just, very wise; but never so much as *talked of*, much less *resolved on*, until the labourers rose, and the *fires* began to blaze. The writer, who commends this wise resolution of the magistrates, observes, that if the *inquiry* so strongly recommended by the Duke of Richmond and Lord Stanhope, last spring, had been adopted, these calamities would have been prevented. No: they would not. There have been inquiry after inquiry by committee after committee; the horrible state of the labourers has been well known for twenty years; and there never has been any measure even *proposed* to better their lot. Oh! no: *it is I* that ought to have had this praise, *seventeen years ago*,

and every year and every month and *almost every week*, since that time. From *across the Atlantic*, what appeals, what earnest appeals, did I make to the Parliament in behalf of the labourers of England! What solemn warnings did I give the aristocracy from Long Island! Whatever other duty I may have neglected, I have never, no *never*, neglected my duty towards the working people of England. I have never written any book, be the subject what it might, into some part or other of which I did not contrive to introduce their hard case, and to plead for justice in their behalf. So that this newspaper vagabond of Cambridgeshire might have thought of my long-continued efforts, when he was applauding the mere slight attempts of Lord Stanhope and the Duke of Richmond. Ah! base newspaper vagabond! You, and all of you combined, aristocracy and parsons and fundholders and all, cannot hide from the working people *who it is* that has been their true and constant friend; and I shall see you, one of these days, as eager to give the praise to me, as you are now anxious to withhold it from me.

But coming now to the SPECIAL COMMISSIONS, what are they to do? Scott ELDON says, that they are to *expound the law* to the ignorant people; and, indeed, it may want expounding if it be *the law of George IV.*, the "*mild and benevolent George IV.*" it will require a long deal to prove the *mildness* of it, as well as to explain its meaning. If the Judges go to put *new laws* into execution, those *death-dealing laws* which were the work of the *mild* reign of George IV., whose history, when I have completed it, will show what impudent liars the eulogists of this reign and regency are, it will require a great deal. But will these ministers SHED BLOOD? That is the question. Will they enforce the *new laws* against the labourers? Will they shed the blood of men made desperate by starvation? Will they shed the blood of men who saw their children dying for want of food? I hope, and I not only hope but *believe*, that they *will not*. They are not a fierce crew of hard lawyers, such as we have

seen in power before. The *chief* is a mild and kind man, very fond of his own family, and who is likely to make the case of the labourers his own. There is *one man*, who is in what is called the cabinet, that *I do not like*; but his office gives him little weight. But, indeed, the whole affair must rest on LORD GREY; and I have, as to this matter in particular, great reliance on his humane disposition. The only charge against him is, that he is *haughty*, and this charge runs through the French as well as the English papers. I once had occasion to wait on Lord Grey; I asked leave to do it; he very politely gave his consent; it was just before I fled to Long Island, to avoid Sidmouth and Castlereagh's and Scott Eldon's dungeons; he received me in the most obliging manner, and conversed with me a long while with the greatest affability. So that, as far as my knowledge of him goes, this charge is not well founded. Then, though Lord MELBOURNE did take part against us, in 1817, he is not a ferocious fellow; he is a good-tempered man, and not inclined to be bloody. There is Lord Holland, who never gave his consent to an act of cruelty; and there is Lord Althorp, too, who has never dipped his hands in blood, nor crammed victims into the dungeon; and the Lord Chancellor, with all his half-Scotch crochets, has, at any rate, *no blood about him*. These are the principal men; and, therefore, I hope that we shall see no blood spilled upon this occasion, though the *stock-jobbers and Jews* (through their organ, the Bloody Old Times) are *calling aloud for blood*!

The acts, committed by the labourers are *unlawful* in themselves. Nobody denies this; but all men agree that they were *starving*; and what says the law in this case? Why, the laws of God and of man, and especially the laws of England, say, that it is *no crime* to take *by force* that which is necessary to the preservation of life. It is against nature to suppose the contrary. All the great authorities concur as to this matter. PUFFENDORFF, upon this subject, says, "SELDEN observes, that, amongst

"the Jews, upon a man's refusing to give such alms to another as were proper for him, the latter could force him to it by an action at law. It is no wonder, therefore, that they should forbid their poor, on any account, to seize on the goods of others, enjoining them to take only what private persons, or the public officers, or stewards of alms, should give them on their petition. Whence the stealing of what was another's, though upon extreme necessity, passed in that state for theft or rapine. But now supposing under another government the like good provision is not made for persons in want, supposing likewise that the covetous temper of men of substance cannot be prevailed on to give relief, and that the needy creature is not able, either by his work or service, or by making sale of any thing that he possesses, to assist his present necessity, must he, therefore, perish with famine? Or can any human institution bind me with such a force that, in case another man neglects his duty towards me, I must rather die, than recede a little from the ordinary and regular way of acting? We conceive, therefore, that such a person doth not contract the guilt of theft, who happening, not through his own fault, to be in extreme want, either of necessary food or of clothes to preserve him from the violence of the weather, and cannot obtain them from the voluntary gift of the rich, either by urgent entreaties, or by offering somewhat equivalent in price, or by engaging to work it out, shall either forcibly or privily relieve himself out of their abundance."

In the same just spirit runs the whole of our own laws. According to the laws of England, as laid down in the books, it was not felony nor larceny even to break into a house in the night-time to get at victuals, if the party were unable to get them in any other way. And Lord Bacon, in his Law Tracts, expressly says, "If a man steal viands (victuals) to satisfy his present hunger, this is no felony nor larceny." The present Lord Chancellor, when, in one of his famous

rattling speeches about educating the poor he said that, in time, the labouring-man might pass his evenings in enjoying the writings of divine BACON (whom he will not imitate, I hope), forgot this Law Tract, to be sure! The truth is, he knew nothing about the labouring-man, about his manners, his habits, his wants, or his pleasures. Think of a man, come home from plough, his limbs weary, every finger half as big as Lord Brougham's wrist, the whole as hard as so many sticks, and chapped with the wind and the frost; think of such a man, with his children climbing up upon him, or hugging his legs; think of such a man, who is asleep as soon as he has swallowed his coarse morsel; think of such a man turning over the leaves, and studying the philosophy of Bacon! But if he were to do it, he would find the above passage; and if it had any effect upon him, would not that effect be to urge him to use fraud or force to obtain that which he could not obtain by other means, to relieve the hunger of his wife, children, or himself?

Blackstone (following Hale) has contended, that our laws will admit of no justification for acts of force or fraud to get at victuals. But both of them found this assertion upon the fact, that no one in England can be in such a state of want; because, say they, there is, in every parish, provision made for the relief of indigent persons; and because that relief is always at hand, and is given the moment it is applied for. Aye, such is the law, or, such was the law, when these two Judges wrote. But this law has been altered by STURGES BOURNE, the son of a Hampshire parson; this law is not in force; relief is not always at hand; the real overseer's power is annulled; the hireling has supplied his place; and do we not see, all over the country, the vengeance of the labourers on account of these hirelings! But, is it not notorious that many hundreds have been starved to death. Were not the men at Acton starved to death! Was not the woman at Marylebone starved to death, though she applied to the overseer? Talk of

fires, indeed! Talk of their being a *disgrace* to the country! The burning of all Marylebone would not be a crime half so disgraceful as starving this poor widow to death.

But, short of death, how great, merciful God, have been the sufferings of the labourers and their families! And is not the parish allowance *slow starvation*? Has not this been proved over and over again, before the committees of the House of Commons? Has it not been proved before those committees, that the allowance for a man at work has not been one half of what is allowed to the felons in the jails; has it not been proved before those committees, that a working man, his wife and three children, are allowed *less to live on than is paid to one common foot soldier*, who has clothing, fuel and lodging into the bargain, which the labourer and his family have not? Is not the state of the labourers that which I have described in the following petition to the two Houses of Parliament? And if this be their horrible state, will this Ministry *shed their blood*? No: I fear not to assert, **THAT THEY WILL NOT SHED THEIR BLOOD**, let the hell-hounds of loan-jobbers and Jews cry for blood as long as they may. The bloody old *Times* newspaper, which is the organ, and, perhaps, in great part the *property*, of this hellish crew, says, that the labourers "*are starving*, and "*that they have been cruelly oppressed*; "*but that some of them must be made* "*to suffer the severest penalty of the* "*law.*" So that this bloody crew would have men *put to death* for using the *only means* left them to save themselves from starvation!

No: this will not be done. The course of these ill-used men has been so free from ferocity, so free from any thing like bloody-mindedness! They have not been *cruel* even to their most savage and insolent persecutors. The most violent thing that they have done to any *person* has not amounted to an attempt on the *life or limb* of the party; and in no case, but in self-defence, except in the cases of the two *hired over-seers* in Sussex, whom they merely

trundled out of the carts, which those hirelings had had constructed for them to draw like cattle. Had they been *bloody*; had they been *cruel*; then it would have been another matter; had they burnt people in their beds, which they might so easily have done; had they beaten people wantonly, which has always been in their power; had they done any of these things, there would have been some plea for severity: but they have been guilty of none of these things: they have done desperate things, but they were *driven to desperation*: all men, except the infamous stock-jobbing race, say, and loudly say, that *their object is just*; that *they ought* to have that which they are striving for; and all men, except that same hellish crew, say that they had *no other means of obtaining it*. And yet this bloody old newspaper calls for the shedding of their blood. This bloody old vehicle of lies, the printer of which was *made a magistrate* by SCOTT ELDON, sees the evidence given before a Committee of the House of Commons by BENETT, stating that he and his brother magistrates of Wiltshire, calculated that every person in a labourer's family "*ought to have a pound and a quarter of bread and a halfpenny a day for food and clothing*;" and yet the infamous and sanguinary vehicle calls for the *blood* of the poor men of Wiltshire!

But *transportation* is little, if anything, short of *death*. And before even this be put in execution against these men, I am sure that Lord GREY will think well on what *his* sufferings would be at being separated for ever from wife and children; and that, too, for not being able to endure the sight of seeing them perish for want. I am sure that *he* will consider this. Were we in the hands of Sidmouth, Perceval, Liverpool, Castlereagh, or others that might be named, I should, perhaps, have held my tongue upon the subject; but I am sure that now we do not plead in vain. Lord MELBOURNE's circular to the magistrates (in another part of this *Register*) most judiciously contains an expression of the opinion of the Government, that the la

bourers have, for some years past, greatly and unjustly suffered. I regard these words as of more value than *all the menaces in the world*; and I regard them, too, as an earnest of mercifulness in the Government; for, with this acknowledgment on their lips, how are they to *shed the blood* of these men, or snatch them for ever from all that makes life worth having?

Hitherto the conduct of the new ministry has given satisfaction to all good men. The explicit declaration of Lord ALTHORP (at the public-spirited town of Northampton), in *favour of the ballot*, has given satisfaction not to be described. Then, whatever *errors* there may be, all men have full confidence in the *honesty* of Lord Althorp. For my part, I could not believe it possible, till I saw it officially announced, that he had accepted of the office that he holds. It is a most meritorious act on his part; it is a *monstrous sacrifice*; he *must* have made it for the good of his country, and from no other motive. "And, 'is it really so,'" said I to Mr. Wells, when he came and told me of it; "then, we shall see no more Jew-jobbing, at any rate; we shall see no more petty clerks spring up and be seated in palaces, while their mothers are on the pension-list; we shall see no more Jews dining at Downing-street; we shall see no more Nobles springing up out of a funding of Exchequer-bills." It really would seem that Lord Althorp had said: "Come; *it is high time that we see what is done with our estates*; and, *that one of ourselves have the care of the money.*" I remember that, the Spring before last, on a day after there had been a long bandying of compliments between GOULBURN and MANNERLY, which ended in the latter assenting to the voting of about *fifteen millions of money*, I, in talking with SIR THOMAS WINNINGTON, who came to see my farm, said, "How can you, Sir, sit and hold your tongue, while those fellows are voting away your estates, with as little care about your opinions as if you were so many worms! How can you sit in silence, while

"the impudent fellows are at this work!"

There is another reason why I am glad to see Lord Althorp where he is; and that is this, that I look upon it as a sure sign, that "*national faith*" is no longer to be interpreted to mean, *the robbing of the whole nation to give double or triple pay to the Jews and loan-jobbers*. He never could; it is *impossible*; he never could have taken this office for the purpose of carrying on a traffic with the accursed Jews. That is impossible: he *must* have other objects in view; if he have them, the Minister must have them; and if this be really the case, *we may even yet escape a convulsive revolution*. But this is not to be accomplished without a Minister with the *people at his back*; and this I told my Lord Grey in 1822, in a letter which I will re-publish next week, and *every word of which applies to the present crisis*, as aptly as if written this very hour.

The case of Lord Grey and of the country is this: he has never had *power* before; when in before, he had *no* power; the last King hated him for his honest declaration against the *payment of his debts*, as stated in my first Number of the History of George IV.; he has never committed himself on the subject of the Debt; he did not join in applauding Peel's Bill, but expressed his doubts of the result. The case of the country is, that for the last twenty years and more, the land-owners, the clergy, and the great merchants and manufacturers, have thrown the burden of the taxes on the farmers, tradesmen, and particularly on the working people; so that it has become a *question between these latter and the fundholders*. These latter, particularly the millions of labourers, will bear the burden no longer. The landowners refer them to the fundholders. "No," say the labourers, "we do not know them; we cannot find them; the farmers withhold the food from us; we must go to them." The farmers go to the landlords and parsons; then it becomes a question between *these* and the *fundholders*; and this is the question now. "The land and the

"funds must come to an *open rupture* "at last." I have said this five hundred times over, and this rupture *is now at hand*.

The funds (in their present unjust rate) will go *at any rate*; the church will be *furiously mauled*, at the least; and the nobility, to be preserved, must *get the people at their back*; and this, as I have always said, they cannot have without *letting the people choose their own House of Parliament, freely and fairly*, and this cannot be without the *ballot*. Any attempt to refuse the ballot would now fill all the middle class of society with indignation. They would regard the refusal as a *premeditated design to defraud them*; and as the fraud would be ascribed to the *aristocracy*, the breach would then be made too wide ever to be healed. I am for a Government of King, Lords, and Commons; but, let what else will come, I am for the freedom, the happiness and greatness of England, and above all things, *for the good feeding and clothing of those who raise all the food, and make all the clothing*.

WM. COBBETT.

P.S. The petition which I insert below, was presented to the House of Lords by Lord KING, and to the House of Commons by Sir William Inglisby.

To the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of William Cobbett, farmer, in the parish of Barnes, in the county of Surrey, dated this 4th day of December, 1830,

Most humbly sheweth,

THAT the labourers in husbandry have, for many years, been grievously oppressed; that, before the Protestant Reformation the laws of England effectually provided, that all indigent persons should be relieved out of the tithes and other revenues of the church, that, after that Reformation, the Poor-law of the 43d year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, made in lieu of the ancient provision, a provision by a general assess-

ment on the real property of the country; that this just, humane, certain, and ever-prompt provision continued to be made, under the last-mentioned law, for nearly two hundred years, always attended with the most happy effects; that this provision has, within the last forty years, been, by degrees, greatly diminished; and that, by two acts passed in the year 1818 (commonly called Sturges Bourne's acts), changing the mode of voting in vestries, appointing select vestries, authorising the employing of salaried overseers, abridging the power of regular overseers, and also of the magistrates in ordering relief; that by these two acts, and by regulations growing out of them, the just law of Elizabeth, which Blackstone describes as "founded in the very principle of civil society," has been, in effect, made an instrument in the reducing of wages, and in grinding the faces of the labouring people, instead of the means of their relief; that, thus, the labourers of England have been reduced to a state of want and misery without any parallel in the history of human suffering, and have been compelled to submit to indignities such as never were before offered even to negro slaves.

That it has been proved before committees of the House of Commons, that the allowance for the subsistence of a labouring man, including his earnings, has been, as fixed by the magistrates in Wiltshire, no more than one pound and a quarter of bread and one half-penny in money per day for food and clothes, with nothing for drink, fuel, or bedding; that it has been proved before the said committees, that formerly the labourers all brewed their own beer, and that now they never do it; that, formerly they ate meat, cheese, butter, and bread, and they now live almost wholly on potatoes, which they carry cold to the fields when at work there; that it has been proved before the said committees, that the honest hard-working labourer is not allowed more than about half as much food as is allowed the convicted felons in the jails and hulks; that it has been proved before the said committees, that the labourers

commit crimes in order to get fed and clothed as well as the convicts are fed and clothed; that the Magistrates of Warwickshire have declared in resolutions at their Quarter Sessions, that the labourers commit crimes in order to get into jail, the jail being a more happy place than their own homes; that it has been proved before the said committees, that the young women are, now-a-days, almost all pregnant before marriage, owing to fathers and themselves being too poor to pay the expenses of the wedding; that it has been proved before the said committees, that the labourers, having an assistant overseer for a driver, are compelled to draw carts and wagons like beasts of burden; and that it has long been a general practice to put them up at auction, and to sell them for certain lengths of time, as is the custom with regard to the negroes in the slave colonies: that all these things have been proved to committees of the House of Commons, and that no remedy for the disgraceful evil, for such crying injustice and cruelty, has ever been adopted or proposed in either House of Parliament.

That, of all the crimes mentioned in Holy Writ, no one, with the sole exception of wilful murder, is so strictly forbidden and so awfully sentenced as that of robbing the labourer of his due share of the fruit of his toil; that God forbids us even to "muzzle the ox as he treadeth out the corn"; that he commands us "not to turn aside the poor in the gate from his right"; that he commands us to supply our labourers liberally and cheerfully "out of our flock, out of our flour and out of our wine-press;" then he commands us not "to harden our heart nor shut our hand against our poorer brethren"; that he has promised us blessings, if we obey him in these things, and that, in case of disobedience, he has told us, that "the land we inhabit shall tremble, that our feasting shall be turned into mourning and our songs into lamentations."

That your humble petitioner begs leave further to represent, that it has not, generally speaking, been owing to injustice and cruelty in the farmers and

other immediate employers that the working people have been thus unjustly and cruelly treated; that the employers, and especially the farmers, have, by the burdens of taxation, direct and indirect, been rendered unable to give to the labourers a sufficiency in wages to supply them with even the bare necessities of life, these necessities being taxed to an enormous degree; that the farmers and tradesmen have, from this cause, been compelled to withhold what was justly due to the working people, or to be totally ruined themselves; and that hundreds of thousands of them have, by this sole cause, and notwithstanding caution, sobriety, industry, and all the virtues of good citizens, been reduced to ruin and wretchedness the most deplorable, and actually make part of that huge mass of miserable paupers who now, to the shame and disgrace of the name of England, swarm over this once free and happy country.

That, as an undeniable proof that it is the taxes which have been the radical cause of these calamities, your humble petitioner begs leave to state to your right honourable House, that when the year's taxes amounted to 7,500,000*l.*, the poor-rates amounted to 1,100,000*l.*; that when the year's taxes amounted to 15,500,000*l.*, the poor-rates amounted to 2,300,000*l.*; and that now that the year's taxes amount to 60,000,000*l.*, the poor-rates amount to 7,500,000*l.*

That your humble petitioner is a farmer; that he possesses knowledge as to the agricultural state of the country, at once the most extensive and most minute; that he has for many years foreseen and explicitly foretold the present crisis, when the labourers, made desperate by hunger and nakedness, are seeking to obtain by violence that which has been refused to their just and legal demands, to the tears of their wives and the cries of their starving children; that he knows, that with the present taxes and tithes, even if there be no rent at all, the farmers are unable to pay the wages which common humanity exacts at their hands, and the paying of which is now become absolutely necessary to the peace of the country, and the safety

of property and of life; and that, therefore, he humbly prays, that your right honourable House will be pleased to pass an act, or acts, to abolish the assessed taxes, and all the taxes of the excise, and to take from the nation the intolerable burden of tithes.

And your humble Petitioner will ever pray.

WM. COBBETT.

PLAGIARISM.

LONDON COMMON COUNCIL.

"Come, let me strip these daws of stolen plumes."

I HAVE many times had to notice the robberies committed on me. For years and years the newspaper vagabonds have partly lived upon the plunder got out of my writings; and, as to speeches in parliament, there the plunder has been so manifest as to fill with indignation all men of right minds, and to leave behind a hearty contempt, not only for the plunderers, but for all their companions; for, to sit and listen to the stolen matter, without expressing scorn of the party, is worthy of contempt the most profound. Even in the Bloody Old Times (the paper of Walters) I have daily, almost, seen articles from my own writings, only disguised, partly by the stupidity of the Walters and partly by contrivance. Measure after measure have the Parliament and the Whitehall set adopted, which were originally suggested by me. The salt tax, the docking of the parsons of their half-pay, the curtailing of the dead-weight widow's pensions, and many other things that might be mentioned. It has generally taken me about six years to see the fellows sneak out with my propositions and arguments. But, of all the instances of PLAGIARISM on me, the one just committed by the Common Council of GUZZLE-TOWN, commonly called London, is the most impudent. Only yesterday (the 7th), the newspapers were crammed with the "brilliant and liberal" speech of MR. CHARLES PEARSON! and about

what? Why, on making a motion for the erasure of the lying inscription, which is on THE MONUMENT, on Fish-Street Hill. Oh! what a fine and powerful, and convincing speech! and what a just, and noble, and liberal, and enlightened Common Council, to have discovered this blot on the character of the City, and have resolved unanimously to efface the lying inscription! How tenacious they must be of their character! How keen in discovering anything that affects it! And, above all things, how just towards the Catholics, in doing this act of justice without any suggestion from any-body; all the whole affair originating in their own intuitive wisdom and benevolence!

Now, then, Reader, take the two following paragraphs from the HISTORY OF THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION, paragraphs, in the large edition, 370 and 431, and in the small edition, 369 and 430. Read these two paragraphs, which I here insert; and, when you are told that this PEARSON and his crew, took all my statements as the foundation of their proceeding, and never even alluded to my book, you will judge the crew according to their merits. Read these paragraphs; and then you will see what a despicable crew this is.

Who, then, can doubt of the motive of this implacable hostility, this everlasting watchfulness, this rancorous jealousy that never sleeps? The common enemy being put down by the restoration of Charles, the Church fell upon the Catholics with more fury than ever. This king, who came out of exile to mount the throne in 1660, with still more prodigality than either his father or grandfather, had a great deal more sense than both put together, and, in spite of all his well-known profligacy, he was, on account of his popular manners, a favourite with his people; but, he was strongly suspected to be a Catholic in his heart, and his more honest brother, JAMES, his presumptive heir, was an openly declared Catholic. Hence the reign of Charles II. was one continued series of plots, sham or real; and one unbroken scene of acts of injustice, fraud, and false-swearing. These were plots ascribed to the Catholics, but really plots against them. Even the great fire in London, which took place during this reign, was ascribed to them, and there is the charge, to this day, going round the base of "the Monument," which POPE justly compares to a big, lying bully.

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"Where London's column, pointing to the
"skies,
"Like a tall bully, lifts its head, and lies."

The words are these: "This monument is
"erected in memory of the burning of this
"Protestant city, by the *Popish* faction, in
"Sept. A. D. 1666, for the destruction of the
"Protestant religion and of *old English*
"liberty, and for the introduction of *Popery*
"and *slavery*. But the fury of the Papists is
"not yet satisfied." It is curious enough
that this inscription was made by order of Sir
PATIENCE WARD, who, as ECHARD shows,
was afterwards *convicted of perjury*. BURNET
says, that one HUBERT, a French *Papist*,
"confessed that he began the fire;" but
HIGGONS (a Protestant, mind,) proves
that HUBERT was a *Protestant*, and RAPIN
agrees with Higgons! Nobody knew better
than the King the monstrousness of this lie;
but CHARLES II. was a lazy, luxurious de-
bauchee. Such men have always been *un-
feeling and ungrateful*; and this King, who
had twice owed his life to Catholic priests, and
who had, in *fifty two* instances, held his life
at the mercy of Catholics (some of them very
poor) while he was a wandering fugitive, with
immense rewards held out for taking him,
and dreadful punishments for concealing him;
this profligate king, whose ingratitude to his
faithful Irish subjects is without a parallel in
the annals of that black sin, had the meanness
and injustice to suffer this lying inscription to
stand. It was effaced by his brother and suc-
cessor; but, when the Dutchman and the
"glorious revolution" came, it was restored;
and there it now stands, all the world, except
the mere mob, knowing it to contain a most
malignant lie.

We have seen how cruelly the Catholics
were treated under "good Queen Bess" and
JAMES I.; we have seen how they were fined,
mulcted, robbed, pillaged, and punished in
body; but, though the penal code against
them was then such as to make every just
man shudder with horror, we think it, then,
gentleness, when we look at its subsequent
ferocity. We have seen how Catholics were
fined, harassed, hunted, robbed, pillaged, in
the reign of "good Bess." We have seen the
same in the reign of her immediate successor,
with this addition, that Englishmen were then
handed over to be pillaged by Scotchmen.
We have seen, that Charles I., for whom they
afterwards fought against Cromwell, treated
them as cruelly as the two former. We have
seen Charles II. most ungratefully abandon
them to the persecutions of the church by *law*
established; and, during this reign, we have
seen that the Protestants had the baseness,
and the king the meanness, to suffer the *ly-
ing inscription* to be put on the MONUMENT on
Fish-street Hill, in the city of London, though
Lord CLARENDON (whose name the law-
church holds in so much honour), in that
work which the University of Oxford publishes
at the "Clarendon Press," expressly says

(p. 348, continuation), that a Committee of
the House of Commons, "who were very dili-
gent and solicitous to make the discovery,
"never were able to find any probable evi-
dence, that there was any other cause of that
"woful fire, than the displeasure of Almighty
"God." What infamy, then, to charge the
Catholics with it; what an infamy to put the
lying inscription on the pillar; what an act of
justice, in James II., to efface it; what a
shame to William to suffer it to be restored;
and what is it to us, then, who now suffer it to
remain, *without petitioning for its erasure*!

Now, I should not be at all surprised,
if the base *Catholic Aristocracy* (who
are the sediment even of baseness itself)
were to bestow some mark of their
gratitude on Mr. Charles Pearson and
the *liberal* Common Crew, of whom he
is a most *worthy* member. This crew
do not touch their *boroughs*, their *livings*
and their *impropriated tithes*. It is
aiming at these that these aristocratic
Catholics *hate me*. They wish that the
History of the Protestant Reformation
had never been written; for, as a vile
old lawyer, who has been their strappet
for many years, said, "Mr. Cobbett has
"done a great deal for *our religion*, but
"a great deal *against our cause*.
That is to say, "Against the *boroughmon-
gering* and against the *public plunder*
in which we wanted to share." That's
it; and nothing else; and, perhaps, in
the whole of the corrupt and rotten
mass, there is no part so corrupt and
rotten as the Catholic Aristocracy, who
seem to have become the worst of the
bad by their ages of longing after public
plunder. I knew this of them, and
said it of them, before I began to write
the "History of the Protestant Refor-
mation." Therefore, it was not for their
good that I intended it. I intended it
as a blow at the church-parsons; and
a blow it was that will finally *decide*
their fate. The nobles may, by acting
justly towards the people, yet save
themselves; but nothing can now keep
up the church in its present state. It
is the *Jonah*; and overboard it must go,
or the ship must go down. Thus have
I, in this, seen Pearson and the *common*
crew the *TOOLS* for executing my
wishes, and, before long, I shall see
more important tools at work to exe-
cute other wishes of mine.

HOBHOUSE.

EVERY pretender is now getting his due. This little fellow, who made a speech at the Crown and Anchor in praise of the *Dead-body Bill*, seems to have found his proper place at last, as the reader will see from the following account in the *Morning Herald*, of the 4th December, 1830. To be *seven hands* held up for him, in a parish containing a *hundred thousand*, is not *many*; but it was *too many* for him; too many for the son of a man who has been receiving public money for nearly thirty years, and the husband of a woman who has been a *pensioner* nearly all her life-time; a man too who sits for a city, the people of which *pelted him off the hustings of Covent-Garden with cabbages and turnips*, and sent scampering off into the church, at the heels of Burdett, just like *Sancho*, under the rib-roastings of the muleteers. Oh! how I have seen these two fellows brought down! Will they ever again show their faces before the people! Will they have that assurance?

Meeting, at Vestry, of St. Anne's, Westminster.—Yesterday morning, at 11 o'clock, a numerous meeting of the housekeepers of St. Anne's, Westminster, was held in the vestry-room at the parish-church, to consider the propriety of petitioning both Houses of Parliament against the house and window duties. Mr. SHARPE, churchwarden, in the chair. The vestry was summoned by the churchwardens, in consequence of a requisition having been presented to them, signed by 160 housekeepers. The petitioners deemed that no time was more favourable than the present for their petitions to be attended to by the legislature. The King was desirous to alleviate the distresses of his people; and the Ministry have declared it to be their intention to pursue the same object. Resolutions were, therefore, acceded to; and petitions founded on them, in accordance with the prayer of the requisition. It was then resolved that Lord Brougham should be requested to present their petition to the House of Lords, and Mr. Hume to the Commons. A prolonged discussion arose upon the proposition that Mr. Hume should be delegated as their representative of the petition to the Commons, since it was observed that Mr. Hobhouse was the more proper person. In answer, however, it was objected that Mr. Hobhouse had not devoted such strict attention to the interests of his constituents as was demanded of him; and that, therefore, they were compelled to withdraw their confidence. An amendment was put in favour of Mr. Hobhouse, when only

seven hands were held up in his support. The resolution for Mr. Hume was passed unanimously. Thanks were voted to the Chairman, and the vestry was dissolved.—*From the Morning Herald, December 4.*

To the Editor of the Register.

London, 6th Dec. 1830.

SIR,—In the letter from the neighbourhood of Cricklade, an extract of which appeared in the *Chronicle* of the 2nd inst., there was a passage relating to you; and as I think the *Chronicle* has done you an injustice, I consider it right that you should know it. In the extract given there is a passage to this effect: "These commotions are owing to Cobbett's *Twopenny Trash*." Now, Sir, this was not the only passage in the letter relating to you; and if the *Chronicle* had omitted altogether the mention of your name, I should not have complained; but, Sir, the writer in mentioning the resistance to oppression on the part of the labourers, and in inscribing that resistance to you, did so with approbation of your general conduct; and he added, that, as you had now proved your fitness for the office of premier, he hoped soon to see you there. As to the ascribing of the *Fires* to you, the folly is equal to the malignity. What, Sir? because you have been, for a quarter of a century, standing alone in the midst of a whole community, predicting that which has at length come to pass, is it to be endured, that those whose perverseness and wickedness have been the real causes, should blame you for foretelling it? As reasonable would it be to ascribe the appearance of a Comet to the person who had foretold its coming. Your predecessor Noah foretold the deluge, and warned the besotted people; but he did not cause the rains to pour down. The rebellion is the *Rebellion of the belly*, as Lord Bacon calls it; and surely no one will accuse you of having caused the labourers to go with empty bellies; or even with cold potatoes or raw sorrel in them. Hoping that the time is near at hand when your efforts for the happiness and renown of your country will be crowned with success,

I remain,

Your most obedient Servant,
A WILTSHIRE MAN.

PARSONS' PETITION TO THE LABOURERS!!!

Tunbridge Wells, 8th December, 1830.

SIR,—I saw this afternoon, in going into Tunbridge Wells, the following printed address stuck up upon the walls in several parts of the town; and I hope to put you to no expense nor further trouble than the reading the Kentish Parson's Petition.—I am, Sir, Your Constant Reader.

LABOURERS,—These questions have been

put to those who have been over-persuaded, by designing men, to join disorderly tumults, to raise their own wages by robbing the Parson of his Tithe, for which you will very soon be sorry.

He who robs the *Parson* robs the *poor*.

Who is most ready to do you any kind office, to give you relief in want, to feed you in hunger?

Who is foremost in signing Petitions for the distressed; who puts forward and manages subscriptions to provide you with coals and other necessities, in a severe winter?

Who is the best comforter to those in prison; who attends to your children in school and teaches them their duty?

Who concerns himself (perhaps more than you do yourselves) about your eternal welfare?

Who visits and comforts you in sickness when all worldly enjoyments are gone? Who shall you wish to see when you are on your death-bed, to console you, and relieve a troubled conscience? Who, at all hours, day or night, attends your call, not heeding the danger of infection, nor the misery of sighs, of distress, of anguish? Who kneels by your bedside, and offers up prayers for your peace and assistance, in that hour of need? Which of you would be satisfied to think that when you are dead, your body, or that of any of your dear friends, would be put into the ground without Christian burial?

Who performs this last office?

All these, and much more, the Parson does for you. Now what are you doing in return for him? Are you not trying to take from him the means by which he is enabled to assist you? Are you not *disturbing* his peace, and making him *uncomfortable* by your riotous conduct? Are you not trying to deprive him of that portion of his subsistence allotted him by law (time out of mind) in order that he may have leisure to attend to your welfare without labouring for it with his own hands. How is it that you have a church provided for you, where rich and poor meet together for divine service? Do you pay for it? No. Your betters pay. Do not be led astray by designing, interested men, but consider this thing from

A TRUE FRIEND,

who has paid Tithes many years.

PARLIAMENT.

Thursday, 2d December.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

LAW. Lord BROUGHAM, in a speech which takes up nearly five columns of the newspaper, brought in a bill for the amendment of the Law; as he, in the course of his speech,

expressed it, to *carry justice to every man's door!* This is coming on again, of course, before the alteration is to be attempted, and then we shall hear the objections of the lawyers; but the notion of having justice at *every man's door* is so preposterous; it is so opposite to what experience has found to be necessary, that I cannot think that this *extensive alteration*, as Lord Lyndhurst called it, will be suffered. It is proposed to make the experiment upon two of the counties of England first, and, if it answer, then to go on with the whole. But I will give the words of Lord Lyndhurst, it being impossible that I should give the speech of Lord Brougham.

LORD LYNDHURST: The ordinary course, my Lords, when measures of such vast consequence are first presented for your Lordships' consideration, is to lay the bill containing the details of these measures on the table, and then to order it to be printed; and to allow your Lordships a competent time to examine them thoroughly, before the bill is read a second time. Such is the course which, as I understand him, my noble and learned Friend proposes to follow on this occasion: so that your Lordships may have the opportunity of coming fully prepared, at the second reading, to discuss the principles and details of *this new and extensive alteration in the system of administrative justice*. At present I content myself with saying, that the plan is one of the highest importance; and I fully concur with my noble Friend in the opinion, that your Lordships are bound to give it your most serious attention. For we must consider that the effect of it, if it should be adopted by the Legislature, will be to *create fifty new Courts of Justice*, to be presided over by *fifty new Judges*, and each of these courts to be attended with the establishment which is necessarily connected with a Court of Justice. These may be considered as minor circumstances; but, certainly, the consequence of adopting the measure will be to make a wide and expensive alteration in our judicial establishments. When the bill shall have been printed, I will direct the most anxious and careful attention to its principles and the whole of its details, that I may come to the discussion on the second reading, as fully prepared as the most unremitting inquiry will enable me to be; and if, after the most anxious attention, and the most careful inquiry, I should feel myself compelled to differ from my noble and learned Friend, I will freely and candidly state to your Lordships the grounds and reasons of my dissent; but if, upon the most candid, careful, and anxious inquiry, I should be convinced that this is a

wise and salutary measure—a real improvement—then I will give it my most cordial and zealous support.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Election petitions took up the greater part of the time of this evening, but on Mr. Rice taking credit for the new Government, for having abolished the office of Postmaster General of Ireland,

Mr. HUME said, that in his opinion, all salaries over 500*l.* a year ought to be reduced one-half. Not including the officers of the House of Lords, or of the Courts of Law, 993 persons received an income of 2,066,574*l.*, which gave an average of 2,080*l.* to each. The officers of the House of Commons received 19,642*l.*; Judicial Officers, not including those of the Common Pleas, 466,836*l.*; Civil Officers under the Crown, 655,434*l.*; Diplomatic and Consular Officers, 251,621*l.*; Naval and Military Pensions to Officers, 331,327*l.*; Colonial Officers, 338,711*l.* Of these 161 enjoyed an income of between 2,500*l.* and 5,000*l.* a year. The incomes of 44 of them ranged between 5,000*l.* and 10,000*l.*; and there were 11 above 10,000*l.* a year. Two hundred and sixteen of them received a gross income of 916,807*l.* If the information which he possessed included salaries below 1,000*l.* a year, and over 500*l.*, they would be found to amount to upwards of 2,000,000*l.* It should be remembered how great was the expense of collection. The fact was, they could never come to a complete knowledge of the sums paid in that way until they should have a committee, such as had been appointed in the year 1810, on the motion of the hon. Member for Dorsetshire, which led to a most valuable and important report. Before the late Government went out of office he had intended to move for a similar committee, but he hoped that the present Government would do it themselves. He then moved for a continuation of the Pension List to the latest period to which it could be made up; which was agreed to.

This is what the country fellows call bringing their noses to the grindstone. This is working them; showing them up. And if we had had this all along, the infamous **THING** never could have come to its present height, nor the country have sunk to its present depth; the blazings and breakings would not have taken place, because the whole nation, seeing the gulf open before it, would have had the wisdom to make an "*equitable adjustment*" while it was possible. It never would have been sot enough to sit perked up, and prate about "*national faith*," while it saw the whole skill and industry of the

country robbed of the fruits of that skill and that industry. It has too much wisdom in it to have done this; but, being unable to *see how it has been robbed*, it has suffered robbery to creep on upon it, till it now comes for the last mouthful of victuals, and there it is stopped. It won't get that, and hence the burnings and breakings.

Friday, 3d Dec.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

BOROUGHMONGERS. The Duke of NEWCASTLE rose to make a grievous complaint against Sir Thomas Denman, the Attorney-General, for having alluded to him, in a very pointed manner, in a speech made at the late Nottingham Election, as a "*Boroughmonger*." The words which the Duke complained of are these:

My sentiments as to the Vote by Ballot are well known to you all: but, if the majority of my constituents shall say they cannot exercise their privilege of election without it, my support shall be given to it. I shall use my utmost efforts against the boroughmongers! And I affirm to you that the power which has called forth from a nobleman that scandalous and wicked interrogatory, "*Is it not lawful for me, to do what I will with mine own?*" ought to be abolished by the law of the land. With respect to the other points, namely, the Abolition of the Slave Trade, and the Corn Laws, I can say that the labours of the present Ministry will be directed to effect the former; and I hope that, although the Corn Laws must be abolished by degrees, the time will soon arrive when that, as well as every other trade, will be as free as Nature and Providence can make it."

These are the words of the Attorney-General, as reported in the newspaper, and excellent words they are. They contain an honest denunciation of the most mischievous, most cruel, most detestable tyrants alive. I do not mean by this that the Duke of Newcastle belongs to this wicked set; but I repeat that boroughmongers are the most cruel, most wicked, most mischievous of wretches. The Duke complained bitterly, and would have it that the Attorney-General meant to allude to him, and, after his complaint, he went on expressing his hope that, *in the present state of the country*, the Ministry would not agitate the question of re-

form! and, speaking of the Ballot, he used these remarkable words:

He trusted that no Ministry would ever permit any-thing so *disgraceful to the character of the country*. An Englishman fought openly, he spoke openly, he acted openly, he did not insidiously, and like an assassin, do that of which he was ashamed. He hoped that the Election by Ballot would be scouted by all men. If Election by Ballot were adopted, there would be no common ties of feeling between them and the other House of Parliament.

"No common ties of feeling!" but let us be patient! "*Ties of feeling!*" Let us wait patiently a few days till the new pension-list gets into our hands, and then we shall, perhaps, get a clearer view of the *ties of feeling* than we have already. Let us wait. Lord Grey made a speech full of good, but sarcastic, observations on the Duke.

Earl GREY said, that as so direct a personal appeal had been made to him, perhaps their Lordships would expect him to say a few words on this subject. At the same time he must own that he felt considerable difficulty in doing so, as he did not understand distinctly what was the object of the noble Duke in bringing before their Lordships the matter now introduced to their notice; nor did he understand in what way that House was to proceed. (Hear, hear.) He begged leave at once to return the noble Duke his sincere thanks, for the very flattering expressions which the noble Duke had employed in speaking of him. The noble Duke had said that it was in his power, if he chose, to save the country—that he should choose to save it, if he had the power, no one he hoped could doubt (hear, hear); and all he could say in answer to that was, that he should use his best endeavours and his utmost efforts, to the full extent of his small ability, to relieve the distresses and suppress the disturbances of the country. (Hear, hear.) That, however, was not the time to enter into the question of Reform, either with respect to its general principles or its particular details. Neither was he called on, upon that occasion, to discuss the expediency of Vote by Ballot. He might, perhaps, have strong objections to it; but till the whole question should come before them, when it had received the sanction of the other House, he should not state his opinion upon it. If it did receive the sanction of that House, he should state the principles on which it should have his support. On the question of Reform, he should decline to state more than to make one observation in answer to what the noble Duke had said as to the agitation which the discussion of that question might produce. If that was his opinion, he should most certainly be the last person to propose such a question to the House. (Hear.) It was because his opinion was directly the reverse of

the noble Duke's on that point, that he had stated the necessity of entertaining that important question. (Hear, hear, hear.) The noble Duke had referred to his opinion. Those opinions had long been entertained by him; they were confirmed by the experience of his whole life; and what he had said in the beginning of the present session had been forced from him by the conviction that the question of Reform could no longer be delayed, but that it must be looked at fearlessly and fairly; since, if it were deferred longer, instead of the improvement being effected cautiously and carefully within, the change might be made from without, to an extent and in a manner that would carry destruction to the Constitution itself. (Hear, hear, hear.) With respect to the particular object of the noble Duke in bringing the present subject under the consideration of their Lordships, he did not know what answer to give. He did not know in what manner that House could interfere, especially as the noble Duke had not proposed it as a question of privilege; for then they might know in what way to proceed in the vindication of their privileges. The noble Duke had stated that he was alluded to, but did not say in what manner he sought redress. The noble Duke had informed him of this matter yesterday. He had expressed then—that which he had now no difficulty in repeating—his deep regret that such a circumstance should have occurred; and if the noble Duke had stated his intention of appealing to the House, he (Lord Grey) might have been better prepared with an answer. He could only say of the Attorney-General, that that hon. and learned Person was held in the highest estimation for his abilities and learning as a lawyer, and for his sound principles and unblemished integrity as a man. There was one point in the matter in which the noble Duke had been mistaken. The hon. and learned Person of whom the noble Duke now complained did not appear on the occasion alluded to, as the King's Attorney-General, but as a candidate for the representation of the town of Nottingham, and he appeared there before his constituents, and addressed them in the way he thought most conducive to the promotion of his interest; and it must be admitted that if the particular words of the candidate at an election were in all cases to be brought before the House as matter of complaint, their Lordship's time would not be very profitably employed. However, he could say, that he did not approve of the use of the word "*boroughmongers*;" but he did not think that on this occasion it had been used for the purpose of selecting an individual for a personal attack. The noble Duke was, however, the proper judge of the conduct he pursued, but considering the circumstances of the case, and the feelings that prevailed throughout the country, the expression of which he complained was not much to be wondered at. He thought it was to be attributed to that (he would not say improper, but unfortunate)

declaration of the noble Duke, which had brought on him the strong animadversions of many persons who do not wish to wound the feelings of the noble Duke personally, but who have felt it to be their duty to oppose that which they considered as an invasion of the freedom of election, and as calculated to injure the best interests of the country. In no other view of the matter could the honourable and learned Person, whom he was proud to call his friend, have brought the subject before the people of Nottingham; and if, in animadverting upon it, the honourable and learned Person had used strong expressions, the noble Duke must lay his account, as a public man, to being made the subject of observation and censure, and to be reprehended by those who thought that he was wrong in his view of questions of public policy. The noble Duke had stated that he had applied to the honourable and learned Person for an explanation, and that he had received one; but he did not state what that explanation was, though he described it as full of legal sinuosities. If they were competent to decide on this matter (which he denied) it would be unjust for them to do so, without having before them the terms of the explanation. It was painful to him to be called on to speak at all on this occasion; he felt for the soreness which the noble Duke naturally exhibited, and he regretted the circumstance that occasioned it. Having said thus much, he hoped the conversation would drop, and that their Lordships would proceed to the orders of the day on the questions that were before them.

This was as smart a dressing as any gentleman had need to receive, and I am glad to see that, in this speech of Lord Grey, he does not reprobate even the ballot as so "*fanciful*" a thing. But he cannot approve of the use of the word *boroughmongers*! It is a strictly proper term, my Lord; a *monger* is a dealer, a seller. It is a good old Saxon word, meaning a dealer in something; and so, a dealer in fish is a *fishmonger*, a dealer in boroughs is a *boroughmonger*. Why not use the words then? Aye, but a dealer in boroughs is . . . Oh, he is, is he?

"Spare, then, the person, and expose the vice.
"How, sir! not damn the sharper, but the
"dice?"

No, no; I have always *liked* this good word, *boroughmonger*; and Lord Grey and the Duke may rely on it, that as long as the infamous traffick is carried on, so long will the opprobrious term be used by the people. A dealer in boroughs is a man who buys and sells the people's rights.

In this discussion the Lord Chancellor took a part, but of no interest, excepting in a little particular which he slipped in just at the end of his speech. He asserted that the speech of the Attorney-General, as reported in the *Morning Chronicle*, was a misrepresentation; and he argued it from "what his learned Friend was represented to have said about the policy of Government, especially with relation to its foreign and colonial policy—a matter which it was impossible he should have so stated, *since the Government had not come to a determination upon it.*" Thus, then, the Government has not determined to give up the West Indies, though the men who compose it have long been doing their utmost to force the late Government to do so, and have kicked up the present dust about it.

Monday, 6th December.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

MR. COBBETT'S PETITION was presented by Lord King. (See the petition in another part of this *Register*.)

REGENCY. The bill, making the Duchess of Kent Regent of the Kingdom in the event of the King's death, was read a third time, and passed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

A good many petitions against Negro Slavery.

REFORM. Mr. BROWNLOW presented a petition from Armagh, praying for reform in Parliament, and the voting by ballot. He agreed with the petitioners as to the necessity of Reform, and the voting by ballot. Upon which Lord Acheson is reported to have said, that "he could not think that the independence of voters or the secrecy of their votes could be attained by the ballot, even should that mode of voting be adopted, unless it were accompanied by some *more effectual security*; an oppressive landlord would still find means to ascertain whether or not his tenants had voted according to his will, and to punish them if they did not so vote. He had the authority of an American gentleman, well ac-

"quainted with the institutions of his own Republic, for stating that the ballot had entirely failed to establish the independence of voters in that country, or to put down corruption. It did not in any degree ensure the secrecy of the votes."

The "*more effectual security*" will be a good long imprisonment, with an hour's dance in the pillory, for that "oppressive landlord" who should dare to interfere in his tenant's voting. This, of course, would accompany the measure itself. A reformed Parliament would sit but a very few months, at any rate, without inventing the means of securing itself against the "oppressive landlord." He (Lord Acheson) has heard that the ballot has utterly failed of effect in America. Why, it never was of any use there, Lord Acheson! It never was wanted; for, if any fellow were to attempt to *control* a voter in America, that voter would spit in his face. There is no such thing as compelling men to vote against their will: how *should* there be? Ask yourself the question. But your *American gentleman* says, further, that the ballot has failed "*to put down corruption!*" What corruption? Corruption of the Congress or of the people themselves? Do not the rulers of America carry on the government of that vast country, containing twelve millions of people, for a smaller sum of money than pays 113 of our privy councillors? Have they not nearly paid off their debt? do the people of America die with nothing in their bellies but sour sorrel? It is the grossest of folly to argue either way as to the benefit of the ballot, from anything that we see in America. It is not wanted there, and to argue that a thing has failed because it has not been required, because it has not been brought into play, is nonsense. Mr O'Connell answered this young Lord by pointing to the benefits derived from the ballot in France, where it really works, and where it and tyranny could not abide together.

SALARIES AND PENSIONS, NATIONAL DISTRESS, REPEAL OF THE UNION. The two former have

been long deemed connected with one another by us "out of doors," but now we find them cheek-by-jowl in the House itself. Mr. Dawson got up to complain of a paper that is in circulation, and in which great misrepresentations are made as to *salaries and pensions*. I believe that this paper has been made out by some one from a little work called the *Peep at the Peers*, which was published about the time of the Queen's trial in order to show her Majesty who and what *her judges* were; a work which was, I understand, made out from documents such as the old pension list, the peerage, the red book, &c., and if sums are incorrectly stated, it is, I suppose, that changes have taken place since the book was published, but all of which will be corrected by the forthcoming pension list. And the pensioners and placemen have no right to complain, seeing that they have not provided us with correct lists every year. Mr. Baring spoke after Mr. Dawson, and I give his speech as I find it in the "*Morning Chronicle*." I never read a speech from this man without hoping that the time will come when there will not be *four Barings* in the *Commons' House of Parliament*! Read this speech, reader, and you may hope so too.

Mr. BARING made a few observations on the same subject, which were not wholly audible. We understood him to say, that a paper describing the salaries and pensions of public officers, had created a great sensation in the public, and was calculated, if *uncontradicted, and if unexplained, to shake the general confidence in all public men, and even the legislature*. He wished that the *paper should be examined by a committee*, and if so examined he was sure that none of the objectionable items would be found to belong to the last ten or fifteen years. He wished that that paper should be brought fairly before the public, and if it were brought fairly forward, he was sure it would be seen that none of the corruption of which it was supposed to be evidence had taken place *of late years*. He should say that very little of such corruption had existed since he had been in the House, and he recollected little or none of such influence. The paper was calculated to produce a most *painful effect*, and to shake the confidence of the public in all public men and in the legislature itself. It would be proper, therefore, that a committee should analyse that paper, and separate the truth from the falsehood,

and show what part of it was derived from *late and what from former administrations*. He wished to say one word on another subject—the subject of an inquiry into the *general distress of the country*. A worthy Alderman had previously alluded to this subject; but he must express his doubts as to the utility of that general inquiry which he suggested. *An inquiry into all the causes of the national distress could not produce any good*, and he should be sorry to see the House go into an inquiry which could not end in conferring credit on itself or benefit to the public. A Parliamentary inquiry into the condition of the southern parts of the kingdom, into the districts which were now exposed to disturbance, would be very important, and might be very useful. Commissions had been issued to support the authority of the laws, which had been violated in those districts, and which must be supported for the benefit even of the poor themselves, for it was essential to their happiness that property should be protected, and that all men should have confidence in the protection of the law; but those Commissions, it was known, were likely to punish a class of persons who had been driven into outrage partly by distress, and partly by the terror of others. He knew that the papers moved for by the Right Honourable Baronet would show the sums of money raised and expended for the poor; but he wished for an inquiry into their condition, which would show the general nature of the payments they received, the extent of their remuneration, and the defective system under which the Poor Laws were at present administered. It was a great misfortune, that in many places the labourers were paid wages out of the poor-rates, and he should like therefore to have an inquiry into the mode of administering the Poor-Laws. (Hear.) The evils of the poor-rates were very great, but whether any remedy could be found for these grievances was a grave consideration. After all the schemes which had been brought forward on this subject, he must say—after applying his mind to the subject too—that he had no hopes that any legislative remedy could be found for such extensive grievances. At the same time he should think that the House abandoned its duty if it did not examine the subject, and ascertain what was the state of the administration of the Poor-Laws, and if any remedy could be found for the evils which existed. To that extent he hoped that the House would institute an inquiry, and, so limited, it would produce a very good effect; but he could not think that an inquiry into the general causes of distress would be useful. He would repeat, as he had before stated, that generally the great interests of the country were not in an unfavourable position, and that what the country wanted was quiet, order, peace, and confidence. (Hear, and a laugh.) To ascertain the state of the agricultural districts was most important, for the other interests, he must repeat, were moving well.”

The question of the *Union* came on

before this, but nothing important occurred in it. I mention it here, because, in this debate about the distress of the country, there occurred what is to me *one of the strongest arguments in favour of repealing the Union*. The reader recollects that that measure brought us *one hundred* members from Ireland, and placed them in our House of Commons to help to govern us; and I will now give the words of one of them in order to show what we gain by having them here. The question was, the distress of the people of England, and the propriety of having a committee of members to examine into the causes of that distress.

MR. OWEN O'CONNER wished the inquiry to be extended to Ireland. The distress of the people there was very great. When he saw *the comfort of the English people*, he was astonished at their complaints and disturbances. The Irish had nothing but a few potatoes and salt to live on, and wretched cabins to dwell in.

No more would the English, O'Conner, if it were not for their complaints and disturbances.

SUPPLY. On Mr. Rice moving for 113,000*l.* to defray the expenses of army services for *seven days*, from the 25th to the 31st December, 1830, Mr. Cresset Pelham “condemned the extravagance of the Estimates for the Army, and” observed, that at the commencement of the American war the whole annual amount required for the Army was “only 613,000*l.*, a sum scarcely sufficient to pay the expenses of the present force for a single month.”

WINDSOR CASTLE. Twenty-five thousand pounds voted for repairs already done. The original estimate for the repairing of this Palace being 150,000*l.*, and the sum already voted being 900,000*l.*, caused some grumbling.

RIDEAUX CANAL. This is a canal that is being cut in Canada. It has cost this nation (England) 572,000*l.*, and it is to cost 160,000*l.* more, and

MR. WARBURTON gave the Government credit for its candour, but protested against any further expenditure, as the regulations with respect to trade would render the Canal totally useless for the purposes which were originally contemplated. No commodities,

such as the Canal was intended to convey, would now be required from Canada.

Altogether *seven hundred and thirty-two thousand pounds* spent for what is just found out to be quite useless! and then great credit is given to those who have spent this money so uselessly, for their *candour*, good God! Can we wonder at any-thing when we see things like this?

Tuesday, 7th Dec.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Nothing of consequence.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

LORD ALTHORP gave notice that on Thursday next he should move for a Select Committee, to inquire whether any and what reductions ought to be made in the salaries of persons holding office under the Crown, and being at the same time Members of either House of Parliament. (Loud cheers.) He would take that opportunity of stating, that it was his intention to submit to the Committee of Supply on Friday evening, simply a proposition, to the effect that the House would grant a certain sum to his Majesty on account of the Civil List. (Hear.)

An excellent beginning! But further on in the evening there was mention of a curious *ending*. For instance,

MR. TENNYSON inquired whether there was any truth in the report that the late administration had procured the addition of several names to the Pension List, *after the head of that ministry had virtually resigned?*

MR. GOULBURN said that he believed *one pension had been appointed on the morning of the day on which the late ministry resigned.* He had not heard of more than one such appointment.

SPECIAL COMMISSIONS. MR. RIDLEY COLBORNE took that occasion to advert to the state of the disturbed districts in the vicinity of the Metropolis, and of other parts of the country in the same condition, urging the necessity of issuing Special Commissions, *in considerable numbers*, for the trial of offenders. He wished to press upon his Majesty's Government the necessity which existed of making such arrangements as would prevent parties accused from being tried by the Magistrates by whom they had been committed, and with whom they might have come into personal conflict.

LORD ALTHORP had to state, for the information of his honourable Friend, that in addition to the Commission already issued, another had passed the Great Seal for the trial of offenders in Buckinghamshire. There would be, in the issue of many more Commissions, considerable difficulty in *finding Judges to try the accused.* He fully concurred with his hon. Friend, that none of those persons ought to be

tried by the Magistrates under whose warrants they were committed, or by any person liable to be swayed by local or any other undue influence.

GAME-LAWS. This infamous code of laws is, at last, likely to be done away with. Mr. Fyler very justly said that it was "quite sufficient to make every man a *trespasser who came upon another's land.*" That is the law as it now stands, and it is law enough. Lord Althorp said that "he was happy that the bill had been brought in; and he could assure the House that Government would readily support any measures that could improve the present system. Certainly that system which *filled our jails with hardy men, with the most active and intelligent of our population*, and educated them in vice, associated them with criminals, and then turned them loose on the country prepared for all kinds of crimes—certainly, such a system could not be too soon altered."

FAMINE. SENSIBLE WOOD, member for Preston, expressed his fears that we should be *all starved together*; for that the country *did not produce enough* to feed its people. To be sure, between Preston and Manchester he would not see much; but, he must surely shut his eyes as he comes up through Northamptonshire, Bucks, Bedford and Herts! Oh! no, Ottiwell, it is not want of produce, but want of *just distribution, and proper cultivation.* It is, because men are employed cracking stones for fundholders to ride on, instead of being at work in the fields. It is because hundreds of tons of cheese rot in the warehouses of London, and hundreds of tons of bacon go to the soap-boilers of the infernal Wen, instead of being eaten by those who till the land. It is because this fund-hell consumes as much food as *twelve of the counties of England.* But all this lies a great deal too deep for thy noddle to reach. Get a copy of my RURAL RIDES, read it through, and then you will know *something about England*, of which, at present, you seem to know no more than you do of the moon. To be sure, if *this system* could go on long enough, England would be *barren*; it would grow nothing but

hardy weeds. But, thanks to the labourers, it will go on but a very little while longer. Read the evidence, Otty, given before Slaney's Committee, in 1828; hear what Mr. Boys of Waldershare says about the decline in the tillage, on *account of the taxes*. Go to Farnham, and see them *ploughing* hop-gardens, instead of *digging* them, and see the poles twelve feet long instead of eighteen. Be taught, Otty, before you open your mouth on the subject again. —But what do I hear! Can it be true, that there is *trouble or distress* in this nation, when, as I used to say, "You have got STANLEY and WOOD!" Why, the devil's in the nation, I think, if it can be in a hobble with *two* such law-givers in its *senate*! I told the rich rascals at Preston that their triumph over me would be of short duration; and now they know it. God send them no hope but what they can have in Stanley and you. And, apropos of Stanley, will he see the *parsons* so hunted, and *not come forth in their defence*! They will stand in need of all his powers; I can tell him that.

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

RURAL WAR.

CUMBERLAND.

On Tuesday night, a little before nine o'clock, a fire was discovered in a wheat-stack belonging to Mr. McCutcheon, situate in a field a little above the new Church in Caldewgate, on the Wigton road, and within a quarter of a mile of the city. A fire-engine was immediately procured, and a crowd of persons collected upon the spot. Attention was soon afterwards directed to another fire which was discovered in an opposite direction in a hay-stack belonging to Mr. Andrew, spirit-merchant, situate at the Sheep Mount, in the Willow Holme. Another fire-engine was procured at this place, and another crowd assembled round it. Within a few yards of the wheat-stack already mentioned were three other stacks of grain; and the fire being on the windward side, it was feared for some time that the whole would be set fire to—and doubtless that had been the intention of the incendiary. By the assistance of the police and part of the crowd, the stack nearest to the one on fire was speedily taken down and removed; and wet tarpauling were thrown over

the other two, which saved them from the destructive element. The feeling exhibited by a considerable portion of the crowd was certainly that of exultation, and they not only refused to assist in extinguishing the flames, but were active in preventing others from assisting. The buckets were taken from those carrying water, and tossed into the flames, amidst considerable cheering; the pipes of the fire-engine were cut in six places, and a police-officer of the name of Bowman, who was standing on the engine, directing the pipe upon the stacks not on fire, was knocked down by a stone which struck him on the forehead, and inflicted a severe though not a dangerous wound. When the flames appeared to get low, the embers were stirred up with sticks, and as the fire brightened up, a part of the crowd cheered! The fire continued to burn the whole night, and the stack, which might be worth about fifty pounds, was entirely consumed. In one part of the crowd we heard the expression—"This will teach them to make corn-laws;" in another—"This will enlighten the Boroughmongers."

At the fire in the Willow Holme the crowd was not so great in the early part of the night; but between eleven and twelve o'clock there was a considerable accession of numbers. The police officers, and some of the persons assembled had worked the fire-engines with considerable effect, and the supply of water being plentiful had succeeded in partly subduing the fire, when the pipes of the engine choked up with sand and gravel. From the top of the stack they rolled off the burning portions, and persons below removed them to a distance. But when the crowd became numerous, the persons employed were obstructed in their work, and ultimately driven off; and the burning parts which had been removed were again thrown upon and round the stack, and the fire, which had been partially extinguished, was thus relighted. It continued to burn all night, although there was a heavy fall of rain, and next day a part of it was saved.

While workmen were removing the unburned part on Wednesday, a crowd again assembled, and first annoyed them, and finally drove them off. It was a very large stack of old hay, of an inferior quality. The loss is estimated at about fifty pounds.

Whilst these dreadful and alarming scenes were going on, not a single magistrate, capable of acting, could be found in the City! The Mayor is non-resident; the senior Alderman is old and infirm; and the other only Magistrate in the city (Dr. Heysham) is so infirm by age, that it would have been the height of cruelty to ask him to go out on such a night. To such a state has Lord Lonsdale's system of promoting to the Bench only political supporters and hangers-on reduced us! The Lord Chancellor has read him a lesson that he will not, haply, dare to overlook. His superior has given the order, and he must now obey.

On Wednesday a meeting of the county Magistrates was held, to consider what steps should be taken, when 100*l.* reward was offered for the apprehension of the incendiaries. One man has been taken into custody for cutting the engine pipes, and warrants are out against some other persons who were recognised as actively engaged in this diabolical work. The following is a copy of a written hand-bill which has been posted in Caldwgate:—"100*l.* reward for the apprehension of boroughmongers, stock-jobbers, tax-eaters, monopolizers, special constables, and the extinguishers of freedom.—By order of the Swing Union."—*Carlisle Journal*.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

CAMBRIDGE, DEC. 4.—I sent you yesterday a hasty account of the grievous fire at Coton. I am sorry to learn that *nearly the whole of the corn in the parish has been destroyed*. The wreck that remains of Mr. Adgier's property was secured by the exertions of the Students of the University and the inhabitants of this town, whose conduct on the occasion is above all praise. The Editor of *The Cambridge Press*, in his paper of this morning, regrets the extreme indifference to the painful scene exhibited by some of the labouring people, and the refusal of others to assist at the engines or buckets. Facts like these show too plainly where the perpetrators of these abominable crimes are to be found. Lord Verulam and others err greatly in their judgment in ascribing them to foreigners; it is, indeed, not a little extraordinary that such opinions should have been advanced with any degree of confidence, since in no one instance that I am aware of has a foreigner been seen in a parish where a fire has taken place. Every effort must be made to detect and punish these assassin-like destroyers of their neighbours' property, and of the public wealth, while at the same time Government (as I trust will be the case) should show itself awake to the situation of the peasantry, and resolutely bent on measures for improving their condition. If the statements of the Duke of Richmond and Lord Stanhope had been listened to last spring, the frightful outrages that have taken place lately might have been prevented. The Magistrates of this county are acting wisely. The following resolution, passed at a meeting convened yesterday by the Lord-Lieutenant, will, if vigorously and judiciously carried into effect, do more to quiet the minds of the peasantry, and prevent disorder, than any other measures, whether of the military or civil authorities, can effect:—
"Resolved—That in order to allay the irritation which appears to exist at the present time in the minds of many of the labouring classes, the Magistrates for the county of Cambridge will immediately make inquiry into the actual state and condition of the poor in every parish of the county."
If a similar inquiry were instituted in every county, the source of the grievance would be

traced, and Parliament might proceed to legislate on sure grounds; but if we are to trust to measures of defence without probing the root of the evil, we shall find, perhaps, when it is too late, that in putting down the late turbulent assemblages of the people "we have only scotched the snake—not killed it." The result of the inquiries would show that the cultivators of the soil have *too small a portion of the profits of the land*, and that no other remedy is to be found than in narrowing the demands of the landlord, the tithe-owner, and the Government. It should be borne in mind, that one-tenth part of the produce has, of late years, frequently amounted to *one-third*, and, in some instances, to more than half the profits.

SUSSEX.

At a public meeting, held on Monday, the 22d of November, 1830, at the Crown Inn, Horsham, Mr. John Steele, in the chair. The following Resolutions were unanimously passed:—

1. That this meeting sincerely sympathises with the distressed state of the labourers, and will exert themselves in every proper and legal way to alleviate the same.
2. That the difficulties under which the Farmers and Tradesmen are now suffering render it impossible for them to pay increased wages, without a very considerable reduction in Rents and Tithes, and of that enormous burden of Taxation under which the Nation now labours.
3. That the immediate repeal of the duties on malt, soap, candles, and coals, appears to this meeting to be most urgently required, with the total abolition of all sinecures, useless places, and unmerited pensions.
4. That the present disturbed state of the Country, and distress of the Farmers, Tradesmen, and Labourers, is wholly caused by misgovernment; and that it is become absolutely necessary for the restoration of that harmony and good feeling which it is so desirable should exist among the different orders of the State, that the people should have the right of choosing the Members of the Commons House of Parliament.
5. That a Petition to the House of Commons, founded on the above Resolutions, be prepared and signed. That the following Petition be adopted:—
To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled,—
The Petition of the Inhabitants of the Town of Horsham and its Neighbourhood, agreed on at a Public Meeting, held in Horsham aforesaid, on the 22d of November, 1830,
Humbly Sheweth,
That your Petitioners have found themselves compelled to reduce the price of labour, and we have seen our peasantry deprived of the comforts, and, in fact, of the necessities of life, without the means of alleviating their condition. Nevertheless until now the oppressed labourer has borne his load, complain-

ing but not resisting; but the time has arrived when he will bear it no longer. Desperation has urged the labourers of this and neighbouring parishes to rise and congregate. They have surrounded the houses of your Petitioners in vast numbers, claiming at our hands that which we believe to be their right, and which we have felt it our interest and duty to give. We have increased their wages, and now, with our augmented burden (insupportable before) we approach your honourable House. We tell you in language, respectful yet plain, that our burdens are such that we can bear them no longer. We therefore most earnestly beseech you to cause the immediate repeal of the duties on malt, soap, candles, and coals; and a practical and constitutional reform of the House of Commons,—to the want of which we trace our present difficulties; and such an appropriation of part of the Church property as is not absolutely necessary for the liberal support of the Clergy, according to their several stations and merits, to the exigencies of the state;—also the abolition of all sinecures, useless places, and unmerited Pensions, together with such a reduction in the large sums paid for the Civil List expenses, as may be deemed consistent with the proper dignity of the Throne.

JOHN STEELE, Chairman

Poisoning Cattle.—If any thing were wanting to increase the horrors we feel in reciting the numerous incendiary fires, it is the fact, that the *diabolical miscreants* have commenced wreaking their malice on the *unoffending cattle*. On Tuesday night, Mr. Samuel Goodman, coach proprietor, of this town, who lives at a farm on the London road, had several fine pigs destroyed by poison, and similar instances have occurred in other places.—*Brighton Herald*.

On Thursday night two barns (one containing nine loads of wheat), a clover rick, and seven hog-pounds, were destroyed by fire, on a farm on *Lord Gage's estate*, near Firle, Sussex. It is said to have been done by the workmen.

At Arundel, on Sunday night, a wheat rick, the property of Mr. Oliver, was destroyed by fire.

OXFORDSHIRE.

OXFORD, DEC. 6.—We are becoming more alarmed for the safety of property than ever. On Friday night there was an incendiary fire at Denton, about five miles from Oxford, between the Henley and Wickham roads. There was much property in danger, but it was discovered early, and put out by the villagers, without the assistance of engines, but not without the loss of a great part of a hay-rick. I am not aware if this property was insured. And last night, about eight, our city was alarmed by a fire in the direction of Evesham, on the Cheltenham road. Engines were immediately put in motion, and it proved to be near Cumner, Berks, a small village on the left. The fire commenced at a small straw

rick, adjoining to which were a cart-house and barn, which contained all the corn the farmer had. The whole was entirely consumed. The house adjoining was saved. He was one of those small labouring farmers occupying scarcely more land than he himself could manage; and I don't know where the excitement could be to destroy his property. He is uninsured. The buildings which he occupies belong to the Earl of Abingdon.

BANBURY, DEC. 5, 1830.—SIR,—Allow me to lay before your readers an example of wages paid to farmers' labourers in the district of which Banbury, in Oxfordshire, on the borders of Northamptonshire and Warwickshire, is the principal market.

The average wages (haytime and harvest excepted) of a farming labourer who has a wife and family, have, for the last two years, (to that period have I limited my inquiries), been 9s. a week.

Allow the family three meals a day—breakfast, dinner, supper;—allow one penny per head for each meal; at the end of the sixth day the whole wages will have been spent, and not a single farthing left for the seventh day, for fuel, for clothing, for the other little articles absolutely necessary to keep a family in cleanliness.

Observe, I say average wages; if there are instances of 10s., there are others of only 8s.

The wages of a stout single man have, in winter, been only 3s., sometimes 3s. 6d., very rarely 4s. a week; but my inquiries have not been so pointedly directed to this class as to the other.

Let each reader make his own comment.

Cannot the tenantry pay higher wages? No. As a body they are paying rent, tithe, and taxes, not from profits alone, but capital as well.

Let each reader make his own comment on this.—Yours, &c., A.B.C., Special Constable.

On Monday morning a party of above 50 rioters assembled at Southcrop, near Farringdon. It appeared the ringleader had induced his followers to swear they would abide by him, and resist any force which the farmers should oppose to them; but no sooner did horsemen appear, than they all fled in the utmost confusion; and though many of them were armed with axes, hammers, and other dangerous weapons, above forty of their number were taken in less than half an hour after the horsemen entered the village. One fellow had in his pocket a flask full of powder, and a large quantity of shot, for the purpose (according to his own account) of shooting a *few small birds*! Unfortunately the ringleader, who was the first to decamp, eluded the vigilance of the pursuers.

This morning we heard of a fire at Kempton, near Deddington, and, on inquiry, found it was on Mr. Lovedren's farm; a barn, one hovel, and a quantity of corn, were burnt; to the amount of 200l. The people were very active, or the whole must have been destroyed. I hope we shall hear of no more fires, but now

it has begun, we do not know where it may end. They attempted to fetch Mr. Wilke's draining plough, but he threatened them, and is now afraid of fire. They have broken the machines at Tadmorton; the constables and soldiers have been and brought nine men from Tadmorton, and I expect they will be sent to Oxford to-morrow. Mr. Painter has had his machine broken, and is a witness against them, which makes him afraid of night work.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

A Requisition has been signed by the inhabitants of Huntingdonshire, requesting the High-sheriff to convene a public meeting to "consider the deplorable condition of the labouring classes of the community, and to devise such means as may tend to ameliorate their condition, and restore them to that actual interest in the soil, which by law and nature they are entitled to, and in the days of our fathers were accustomed to enjoy. And further to petition Parliament to reduce the amount of taxation, and to remonstrate with the great landed proprietors of the country, and the proprietors of tithes, on the high rents which being now paid out of the capital of the farmers, will not allow them to lay out money in the cultivation of land, and consequently to give full employment to the poor."—*Hunts Gazette*.

YORKSHIRE.

On Wednesday last, a parcel containing twelve threatening letters, addressed to the principal farmers, and signed "Swing," was found at Crowle, Yorkshire, and similar letters have also been received at Ferry. The owners of agricultural produce have, in consequence, adopted the necessary precautions, by appointing *watchers, who relieve each other during the night*.

BERKSHIRE.

The labourers of Binfield, Berkshire, have shown some appearance of a riotous disposition, by assembling armed with sticks, hammers, and other weapons. A party of them recently entered a public-house, and took possession of a joint of meat which was roasting before the fire, and speedily demolished it. At a meeting held in an adjoining parish, at which a noble Lord presided, one of the Resolutions was, "That it was expedient and very desirable that the poor should be paid in money," thereby admitting that the truck-system was in practice. The noble Lord owns three-fourths of the land in that parish: surely he will enable his tenants to pay "in money," after such a declaration. In another adjoining parish, at a meeting recently held, it was determined to find work for the unemployed poor at the usual rate of wages in the parish—viz., 10s. per week. In many instances, where labourers have families, that sum would not amount to the allowance which is termed their "*bread-money*;" and yet these village Solons fancy they have done something to appease that spirit which has spread so much destruction around them.—*Reading Paper*.

READING, DEC. 5.—Last night, between ten and eleven o'clock, we were alarmed by the appearance of a fire at a few miles' distance. We had the County Fire-office engine and men out, and so had the Berks-office. It proved to be a lone barn, in the occupation of Mr. Charles Hearne, of Burghfield, containing about twenty quarters of barley, some peas, &c. There was a machine there, but it was taken to pieces, and loaded on a waggon to be drawn away. Mr. Hearne is a very respectable man, and has always taken a very active part in parochial matters. Robert Hopkins, Esq., of Tidmarsh, has received a threatening letter, and I see by *The Reading Mercury*, he offers 100*l.* to any person that will discover the writer thereof.

NOTTINGHAM.

I hand you an extract from a letter received this morning from Nottingham, written by a gentleman of the first respectability:

"NOTTINGHAM, Dec. 6.—I lose no time in informing you, that the incendiary spirit has at length reached the centre of the midland counties. On Saturday night, or early on Sunday morning, a large wheat stack belonging to a Mr. Chamberlain, of Long Eaton, about seven miles from this place, was discovered to be on fire; by prompt exertions, however, a portion of it was saved; nevertheless the loss is considerable. There is a report of another fire; but I cannot learn any particulars. A great number of threatening letters, many of them of fearful import, has been received by numerous individuals; some of them of the highest respectability, during the last few days. The author of the incendiary attempt on the Derby Post-office (it is confidently stated this morning) is discovered in the person of a young man, of immense property and the first respectability in the neighbourhood."

BUCKS.

OLNEY, Dec. 6.—I regret to inform you that we have had a fire at Olney, on Thursday evening. It commenced very soon after six o'clock in the evening. It was a cow-house, with a great deal of straw in it, and two cottages thatched adjoining. The roofs were completely consumed. The building was just at the back of my premises, and I very promptly got the engines to work. The wheat straw that was in the cow-house burnt most furiously, and the wind was rather high, which blew the sparks to an immense distance.

DERBYSHIRE.

On Sunday morning, at an early hour, two corn stacks, on the premises of J. C. Hopkins, Esq., Long Eaton, Derbyshire, were discovered to be on fire: it was with difficulty prevented from extending to the buildings. The stacks were completely destroyed, notwithstanding the prompt aid of the villagers. There is no doubt it was the work of incendiaries. Mr. Hopkins is an excellent man, pays liberal wages, and does not employ machinery.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—On Saturday, the 4th inst., the town and neighbourhood of Ashton-under-Lyne were thrown into a state of considerable alarm, by several thousands of the work-people, who had assembled, with tri-coloured flags and a band of music. The whole marched in military order to visit the factories which were at work, and peremptory orders were given for all hands to leave off working, to attend a meeting advertised to be held at one o'clock in Dukinfield. It had been previously reported, and probably not without some truth, should any opposition be made to their proceedings, that it was determined to dispute the matter per force. Be this as it may, the military were not in attendance, nor any soldiers nearer than Manchester, which is seven miles' distance. The origin of these proceedings has arisen in consequence of the master-spinners having agreed, after the 11th December, to pay three shillings and ninepence for spinning 1000 hanks of yarn, and the operatives object to this, and are determined to take no less than four shillings and twopence per thousand hanks. Should the affair be disputed betwixt master and man, great distress must inevitably be the consequence. Upwards of fifty cotton mills, several of which employ more than 1500 hands, will be totally stopped, and not less than between thirty and forty thousand individuals out of employment during the most inclement season of the year. An immense concourse of people attended the meeting above mentioned, and were addressed at considerable length by Messrs. Betts, Doherty and others, the purport of which was to be firm and united, and resist the reduction.

KENT.

MAIDSTONE, Monday.—A fresh alarm, when it was thought that the spirit of incendiarism was dying away, has been spread here, by a fire which took place on Sunday night at Aylesford, within a few miles of this town. The fire broke out on the farm of Mr. Samuel Arnold, near that place. About half-past ten on that evening flames were observed to burst from a large barn which contained several quarters of beans that had been housed only on Saturday morning, five bushels of wheat, the produce of three acres of barley and pease, and upwards of thirteen bags of hops. Mr. Arnold had employed two men to watch his premises on the above evening; and it appears that they had remained at their post till a few minutes past ten o'clock, when they departed, with the intention of returning in an hour. In about ten minutes afterwards they were suddenly recalled by the cry of "Fire." From the combustible nature of the materials the buildings and its contents were speedily one mass of fire and flame. A large number of the villagers soon assembled on the spot, and assisted with much alacrity in the endeavours to extinguish the flames. The engines belonging to the Kent fire-office also arrived soon after the fire broke out, but notwithstanding every exertion the barn and all it contained were entirely de-

stroyed. The Chatham and Rochester engines came to the place, but unfortunately not in time to be of use. The engines, however, played for some time upon a range of cottages situated directly opposite the barn, inhabited by labourers, whose wives and children fled amid horror and alarm. They were thereby saved from ignition. A party of dragoons from the cavalry depot at Maidstone, under the command of Captain Coerton, also rode to the spot, but the good conduct of the peasantry rendered any interference on their part unnecessary. The farm stock was insured for 200*l.* in the Kent Office, and the barn, which belongs to Messrs. Smith, of Brompton, was insured for the same sum in the Sun Fire-office. The property destroyed is, however, estimated at 700*l.*

Viscount Sidney has issued the following address to the Men of Kent:

Gentlemen, Yeomen, Farmers, Labourers!

Awake from your trance! The enemies of England are at work actively, to ruin us. Hordes of Frenchmen are employed in doing the deeds of incendiaries, and inciting to acts of tumult. The glories of England achieved against Buonaparte, rankle in the minds of Frenchmen. The independence of Europe, achieved at Waterloo, they cannot forgive; and they are striving, by every art and deception, to ruin England, and again become masters of the world.

The fires of Normandy are revived in Kent, are spreading to Sussex and Surrey, and far and wide, till general distress shall destroy all confidence, and the power of Britain shall be at an end. Englishmen! Unite heart and hand, and discover and bring to punishment these incendiaries.

Let us be true to ourselves, and our dangers will pass away. Our king and our parliament will remove all real grievances, if peace and confidence be restored.

If divisions and disturbances continue, time and thought must be applied to their removal. The worst foes are ever those of our own household.

Be peaceful, watchful, and united!

This England never did nor ever shall lie at the foot of a proud conqueror, unless she first did help to harm herself. France will assuredly gain an ascendancy, and destroy the sinews of our power, if we are not united among ourselves. Shall the conquerors of the Nile, of Trafalgar, and Waterloo, be tricked and mixed by the arts and deceits of Frenchmen, or of base Englishmen, corrupt and infidel. Forbid it, true-hearted Englishmen. Put down the nightly crimes of wicked men; let confidence and friendship prevail throughout the land. Our God has been gracious to us. We are beyond the power of all enemies except we encourage them by our want of resolution and unity. Desolation and destruction await us very shortly if the deeds of ravage are allowed to continue. Let every true Englishman, as a free man, think it his duty to bring the wretched incendiaries

to justice. The people at large are, of all classes, most interested in doing so,—for famine and misery will assuredly be their lot if they are not put down.

“Nought can make us rue,
If England to herself do prove but true.”
SIDNEY.

NORFOLK.

On Monday a party of the operatives assembled on St. Catherine's Plain, in Norwich. The object of their meeting was understood to be the rate of wages. The meeting was not very numerous, and after having been addressed by a person, who we were told was from London, they adjourned to the Green Hills without St. Augustine's Gate. About three o'clock, two or three hundred persons assembled there, and shortly after they attacked the premises of Mr. R. Calver, timber-merchant. Having forcibly entered the sawing-mill, they destroyed the machinery. They then broke into the stable and taking some hay out of the rack, carried it towards the mill, which was soon afterwards set on fire. Some of the rioters were taken into custody, and committed to prison.—*Norfolk Chronicle*.

The paper-mills at Taverham, Norfolk, were destroyed last week by a mob of about 300 persons. The damage done is estimated at about 500*l.*, and about 25 persons are thrown out of employ. They afterwards destroyed two thrashing-machines belonging to other persons. On Saturday the paper-mill at Lynn, Norfolk, was destroyed. The value is about 500*l.*

SUFFOLK.

Ipswich, Dec. 6.—It having been announced that a meeting of the labouring classes would take place this morning at *Rushmere Heath*, two miles distant from Ipswich, the Magistrates had made every preparation for quelling any tumult that might have arisen from a numerous assemblage. The yeomanry, to the amount of several hundreds, were early on the ground, accompanied by several of the neighbouring gentry, but the peasantry not appearing, the greater part of the yeomanry separated about one o'clock. Soon afterwards a few of the labouring classes, from parishes at a considerable distance, appeared, to the amount of about one hundred and fifty or two hundred, including boys. Upon being asked their object in meeting, some said that they had been led to expect an advance of their wages, but that they had no intention to create any disturbance whatever; others, that they had come out of curiosity. A party coming from a distance, to the amount of forty, then proceeded towards Ipswich, and were met about a mile from the town by the Lord Lieutenant and the Magistracy, and after a few words of kind expostulation, they were requested to disperse, and they very quietly obeyed this injunction. Too much credit cannot be given for the precautionary measures adopted by the Magistrates in this district; the multitude of the yeomanry was equally creditable; and it is but justice to add, that the

peasantry conducted themselves most respectfully and peaceably. The thinness of their numbers, and the moderation of their demands are satisfactory proofs that the labouring classes in this neighbourhood generally are not discontented, and it is a most gratifying circumstance that the *miscreants who occasioned this meeting*, and calculated upon it as an opportunity for the excitement of popular tumult and disaffection, are *completely disappointed*. The result cannot be otherwise than favourable to the public peace, and the poor are assured that those who administer the laws will lend a willing ear to their well-grounded complaints.

HAMPSHIRE.

NEWPORT (ISLE OF WIGHT), DEC. 4.—We regret to state that fires have taken place since the last week, which we are compelled to attribute to the incendiary system. A hayrick belonging to Mr. Tucker, of this town, was set fire to on Saturday-night last, and totally destroyed. Two men are in custody on strong suspicion of having been concerned in it. A hay-stack belonging to *The Very Rev. the Dean of Ely*, at Freshwater, and a thrashing-machine belonging to Mr. Richard Harvey, at Rookly, were wilfully destroyed by fire on Sunday, and an attempt was made (but without success) on the same night to set fire to a corn-stack at Gate-house-farm, near Ryde.

Several men belonging to the Preventive-service stationed at Cowes have been dismissed, for refusing to proceed to Newport on Saturday with their fire-locks, to do duty while the meeting was held at the Guildhall respecting the riots.

A public-house at Selborne, near Alton, was destroyed by fire on Saturday-night. It was the act of an incendiary, and two men are in custody on suspicion of being concerned in the diabolical act.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

The system of sending threatening letters is still practised in the county of Gloucester. They are evidently the production of men of more than common education. Besides the farmers, some manufacturers in the clothing districts have received them, particularly those who have been engaged in the truck system. About sixty prisoners have been lodged in Gloucester jail for rioting and destroying machines in the neighbourhood of Northleach, Lechlade, and Tetbury.

There are now 280 prisoners in Devizes House of Correction, charged with being concerned in the late riots.

A warrant has been issued for the apprehension of a respectable tenant of Lord Arundel's, who is said to have joined the mob in the attack on Mr. Benett's house in Wiltshire.

On Wednesday morning a mob of between 2 and 300 persons surrounded the farm of Mr. Allen, at Iwer, and began to pull it down. They were, however, opposed by the Magistrates and a strong party of constables, and several of the ringleaders were taken into cus-

today. Some of the men who were captured were in full employ, and receiving 12s. per week.

Mr. Lockhart, the vicar of Stone, Bucks, has reduced the rent of the vicarage from 125l. to 80l. per annum.

BEDFORDSHIRE.

DARING RIOT.—On Thursday, a desperate riot took place in the village of *Stotfield, Bedfordshire*. For some days previous, indications of the pending storm were discoverable in the conduct and declarations of the labouring classes. On Wednesday evening, they began to assemble, and many of the more peaceable inhabitants were forcibly dragged from their beds, and compelled to join the rabble. They then proceeded to the residences of the more respectable inhabitants, demanding an increase of wages, &c. They separated for the night, on being informed that their complaints should be attended to in the morning. Long before daylight, however, they collected again, and compelled every man and boy that was willing to work to join them; those who proceeded with their horses to plough, &c. were forcibly taken away, and the horses turned adrift. About ten o'clock, when the vestry assembled, they demanded to be exempt from the payment of taxes (every house having been heretofore in the assessment, and the rates of those who were considered incapable, were allowed by the vestry in the overseers' accounts.) They next demanded the dismissal of the assistant-overseer; and they then demanded that every man should receive 2s. per day for his work. The vestry, finding they could not comply with the demands of the mob, broke up. The infuriated assembly (from 100 to 200 in number) then went through the village, demanding bread from the bakers, beer from the publicans, and money from the inhabitants generally; such as resisted their demands had a forcible entrance effected into their houses, and were eventually obliged to comply. Some violent remarks were levelled at the now resident Vicar, who had rendered himself obnoxious to them by an increase in his composition for tithes at the last audit. The lessee of the great tithes was also the object of their vilifying aspersions. On separating, they declared that if their demands were not complied with, they would have recourse to further violence. A great number of special constables were, however, in the interim, sworn in, and several of the ringleaders were taken into custody.

DORSETSHIRE.

At Preston, near Weymouth, on Tuesday, two hay-ricks were destroyed by fire; the supposed incendiary is in custody.

On Wednesday evening, 300 to 400 labourers assembled at Henstridge and Tomer Farm, and destroyed three thrashing-machines, the latter the property of *Sir William Medlycott, Bart.*

Mr. Harding of Stinsford, has had two ricks, one of wheat and the other barley, consumed;

and a hay-rick, the property of Mr. Wallis, of Broadmayne, was burnt on Monday.

At Blandford and the eastern part of the county, the labours dispersed on being assured that their wages should be increased.

WIMBORNE, Dec. 4.—On Wednesday morning a fire broke out at the farm at Old Lunn, I have been to the place; it is a very lone place; and I cannot find that any suspicious persons had been seen about the premises. A straw-rick caught fire, which was consumed, and without injuring any of the corn-ricks or premises which were very near. It must have been the act of an incendiary.

LINCOLNSHIRE.

SPALDING, Dec. 4.—There was a thrashing-machine burnt last night at Moulton, about four miles from this place, which a person there very foolishly used in thrashing his corn, and the straw and about seven quarters of wheat were destroyed.

—, *Lincolnshire, 7th Dec. 1830.*

DEAR SIR,

Your last Register mentions two fires that have occurred in this neighbourhood: since that account reached you there has been another fire, which took place upon a farm at Saltfleetby, a village situate in the centre of our immense and fertile marshes. In addition to these overt acts of revenge, numerous threatening letters have been sent to various individuals, so that dismay and consternation prevail all over; frightened magistrates sit in divan; large rewards are offered for the discovery of offenders; police officers and local constables are prowling about (their palms itching for gold); every night-traveller is regarded with suspicion, and particularly if he be seen on horseback! the farm-houses are converted into sentry-boxes, and the farmers themselves sit up all night to watch, with candles burning and with their friends and relatives (where they are at hand) to assist them in the hour of apprehended danger, thus completely realising the picture drawn in one of your many slighted warnings eight or ten years ago. Farmers not insured are now anxious to insure, *if they can*. Ah! if they had treated their labourers justly, or, not being able to afford better wages, had explained to the men the real cause of their common grievances, and co-operated with them in seeking a common remedy; if they had done these things, they would have needed no other insurance from injury now. Those of the farmers (but they are few) who have acted this kind part towards the men, feel safe in the midst of all this danger. Some such honest fellows I know, and am only reporting their own confessions. But the mass of the farmers and landlords have acted a different part. It is impossible to forget the careering insolence of "Yeomanry Cavalry" during the times of high prices: they were then the loud-mouthed, the clamorous bull-dogs of the aristocracy against "Jacobins and Levellers;" they then roared out in their

drunken toasts, (it is impossible to forget this,) "Here's Old England! and those who don't like it, damn 'em let 'em leave it!" How do they like Old England now? They ought to like it, for its present state is, in a great degree, of *their own producing*: however, if they don't like it, let them call in the reformers to mend it, for there is no other alternative. The labourers are already better off: they have obtained a *rise of wages*; they have gained a portion of their rights by making an appeal to the *fears* of their employers who have shown *no sense of justice*, and they will henceforward know *how to prevent a relapse*: it now remains for the farmers and landlords, *for their own sakes rather than for the men's*, to turn machine-breakers themselves, and to persevere until they have destroyed the machinery of boroughmongering.

An attempt has been made to raise a body of special constables, but though the object is proper enough, yet, out of a population of some thousands, not more than seventy or eighty persons have come forward, and most of them have come forward *because they dare not refuse*, having been solicited by wealthy customers, tax-eaters, and others of that well-known description. The truth is, that all men now perceive that the labourers have been *starved* into rebellion, or revenge, by a long course of cruel oppression: most persons, therefore, *compassionate* their case, and say: "The labourers have long been robbed of their wages, and the farmers and landlords are now losing the proceeds of the robbery." This consideration it is which diminishes the horrors of the fires; and as the sworn patrons of corruption have at length learnt that there is a certain limit which even their well-backed tyranny cannot transgress with impunity, reflecting men can draw consolation from this *excess of evil*, which will most assuredly bring its own cure, will most assuredly make Oppression relax its iron grasp, and prove the harbinger of a day of justice and retribution to injured millions. "If they had treated us poor creatures better, it would not have come to this," said the wife of a labouring man, who lives in the neighbourhood of a terrible *parson-justice*, in my hearing, the other day. Tyrants of all descriptions now tremble in their shoes, and there is one class, above all others, like condemned criminals, await their approaching end in silence.

There are base creatures hereabouts who would fain attribute these fires to you! Guilty wretches! Callous as their consciences are, it seems they are not callous enough to bear the intruding thought that all this evil is the result of the system which they have supported, and which you have denounced, for more than a quarter of a century! By way of comment, take the following fact. A farmer residing in a parish closely adjoining to the one (South Reston) in which nine stacks were burnt, a week ago, told me yesterday that one of his labourers observed to him, in a conversation about these fires, "Why the farmers

cannot give higher wages: I bought a little paper, for a halfpenny, a few weeks ago, at Louth market, called a 'Letter to the King,' and that paper showed me more about it than any thing I ever saw before: I now see that it is the taxes and the tithes that make the farmers poor and the wages low." Let all the farmers, then, read to their labourers "Cobbett's Manifesto of the Labouring Classes," (which has been republished under the title of a *Letter to the King*), and the fires will cease to blaze in an instant. However, the wretches who attribute blame to you, must, it seems, endure greater calamities still before they will act justly. They cannot yet believe that the labourer is oppressed, or that, being oppressed, he has the sense to know it, or the spirit to resent it.

Yours very truly,

Dear Sir,

P—T—.

To the Editor of the Register.

SIR,

As the following short narrative affords a striking example of the grievous oppression of the tithe-laws, and of the vigorous rapacity with which they are sometimes enforced, and as it is free from all personal invective, and unaccompanied with any comment or observation, I trust you will allow it a place in your Weekly Journal. A respectable freeholder in Herefordshire, who from the enormous rate demanded for Composition, judged it expedient to pay his tithes in kind, granted to his workmen (I believe 4 or 5 in number) a few roods of land for growing potatoes, for the use of themselves and families, and which these men cultivated with much toil and labour, chiefly in hours which they borrowed from those generally appropriated to rest and repose. When the fruit of their labour had come to maturity, and the season had arrived for laying up this little (though to them important) store of humble provision, they were informed a *tenth* belonged to the Rector. Nothing dismayed by this consideration, but confidently believing that under such circumstances he would readily grant them a remission of his claim, they applied to him for that purpose, and though he is a highly dignified divine, loaded with pluralities, and whose church revenues annually amount to many thousands, he sternly refused them, and insisted on his claim, even to the last potatoe. Is this in accordance with the emphatic precept of his great divine Master, "He who giveth to the poor, lendeth unto the Lord?"

A FREEHOLDER.

HOME OFFICE.

The following very proper and well-timed notification has just been issued from the Home Secretary's Office:—

(CIRCULAR.)]

Whitehall, 8th Dec. 1830.

SIR,—I am commanded by his Majesty to

lose no time in acquainting you that it has been observed with great regret that the Justices of Peace and others have in many instances, under the influence of threats and intimidation, and the apprehension of violence and outrage, advised the establishment of an uniform rate of wages to be paid for labour in their respective neighbourhoods, and have also, from the same motives, in many instances recommended the discontinuance of the employment of machines used for thrashing out corn and for other purposes.

Reason and experience concur in proving that a compliance with demands so unreasonable in themselves, and urged in such a manner, can only lead, and probably within a very short period of time, to the most disastrous results; and that the tranquillity which is obtained by concessions grounded upon principles so erroneous is likely to be of very transient duration.

The Justices of Peace must be aware that they are invested with no general legal authority to settle the amount of the wages of labour; and any interference in such a matter can only have the effect of exciting expectations which must be disappointed, and of ultimately producing, in an aggravated degree, a renewed spirit of discontent and insubordination.

Upon the second point it is only necessary to observe, that these machines are as much entitled to the protection of the law as any other description of property, and that the course which has been taken of prescribing or recommending the discontinuance of them is, in fact, to connive at, or rather to assist in, the establishment of a tyranny of the most oppressive character.

His Majesty's Government are fully sensible that allowance is to be made for the new and difficult circumstances in which Magistrates have been placed, by the recent disturbances which have occurred in various parts of the kingdom; but under no difficulty, nor in any extremity, ought principles so contrary to the general interests of the community, and so injurious more especially to the welfare of those who have been deluded into the commission of these offences, to be recognized, still less to be sanctioned, by persons in authority, whose duty it is at all hazards to maintain the authority of the law, and to secure the liberty of the subject.

His Majesty's Government feel deeply for the sufferings and privations which have of late years pressed, and still continue to press, severely upon the labouring classes of the community. They are anxious to adopt, as speedily as possible, every practicable and reasonable measure for their alleviation; but they are also entirely convinced that these sufferings will only be increased and protracted by a course of concession to violence and tumult.

It is my duty, therefore, to recommend in the strongest manner, that, for the future, all Justices of Peace and other Magistrates will oppose a firm resistance to all demands of

the nature above described, more especially when accompanied with violence and menace; and that they will deem it their duty to maintain and uphold the rights of property of every description against violence and aggression.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

MELBOURNE.

From the *LONDON GAZETTE*,
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1830.

BANKRUPTCY ENLARGED.

OGILVY, J., Fleece-yard, Tothill-street, Westminster, and Barge-yard, Bucklersbury, cabriolet-proprietor.

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

ROSE, J. E., Bath, linen-draper.

BANKRUPTS.

ALEWYN, J., Fenchurch-street, merchant.

ALLEN, S., Stratford, Essex, coal-merchant.

BRICKNELL, J. P. A., Exeter, haberdasher.

COPE, H., Barnet, tailor.

DELVES, R., Tuunbridge-Wells, lodging-house-keeper.

DRYSDALE, J., Little Hermitage-street, Wapping, ship-chandler.

HUMFREY, J., Manningtree, Essex, wine-merchant.

JOSEPH, A., Penzance, flour-dealer.

KNIGHT, C., Basinghall-street, dealer.

MUSTON, P. I., and T. P. Barlow, Austin-friars, commission-merchants.

OLDHAM, M. Stockport, Cheshire, inn-keeper.

PADLEY, W., Tetford, Lincolnshire, common brewer.

PLUMMER, J., and W. Wilson, Fenchurch-street, merchants.

SHIRREFF, M. A., Mount-street, Berkley-square, milliner.

SINDREY, W., Mitre Tavern, Fish-street-hill, victualler.

SMITH, G. B., Bristol, corn-factor.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1830.

INSOLVENT.

DEC. 3.—MOORE, W. J., Derby, manufacturing jeweller.

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

KING, J., Lamb's Conduit-street, draper.

BANKRUPTS.

BOOT, J., Nottingham, bleacher

BRISTOW, W., 4, Milner-terrace, New-cut, Lambeth, baker.

DAYUS, H., Bankside, Southwark, engineer.

FOGG, J., Manchester, surgeon and apothecary.

FRIEND, E. A., Cambridge, livery-stable keeper.

GAMBLE, J. and T. KIDD, Sutton-in-Holderness, Yorkshire, wood-sawyers.

HENN, A. H., Holborn, hatter.

MACKENZIE, W., 280, Regent-street, Oxford-street, wine-merchant.

MANLEY, T., Wentworth-street, White-chapel, sugar-refiner and merchant.

PAGE, W. Back-hill, Clerkenwell, victualler.
 PARKIN, J., E. R. THOMAS, and J. D. WOLFORD, Fenchurch-street, brokers.
 PRICE, G., Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire, coal-merchant and seedsman.
 SWEETAPPLE, B. and SWEETAPPLE, T., Catteshall Mill, Godalming, Surrey, paper-manufacturers and mealmen.
 VARLEY, J., Manchester, machine-maker.
 WHEREAT, J., Romsey, ironmonger.
 WHITBOURN, D., Darkhouse-lane, Lower Thames-street, fishmonger.
 WILLS, J. H., Bath, baker.
 WILLDER, J., Birmingham, victualler.

LONDON MARKETS.

MARK-LANE, CORN EXCHANGE, DEC. 6.—Although we had not a very abundant arrival of English Wheat, yet it was much larger this morning than it has been for some weeks past, and we found great difficulty, even where the quality was good, in supporting last week's prices, while all the middling and inferior sorts were rather lower than otherwise, and the stands at the close were not quite cleared. Flour remains at our last quotations. Barley was taken off at prices fully equal to last Monday, and in some few instances of picked samples for malting, rather more money was obtained. Oats are ready sale, at an advance of 1s. per quarter. White and Grey Peas are dull, and scarcely maintain the prices of last week. In Beans of both sorts, or other articles, no variation.

Wheat	66s. to 72s.
Rye	28s. to 32s.
Barley	30s. to 36s.
— fine	37s. to 41s.
Peas, White	40s. to 50s.
— Boilers	51s. to 54s.
— Grey	30s. to 39s.
Beans, Small	35s. to 43s.
— Tick	30s. to 41s.
Oats, Potatoes	25s. to 26s.
— Poland	27s. to 28s.
Flour, per sack	55s. to 60s.
Rape Seed, per last	30l. to 44l.

HOP INTELLIGENCE.

BOROUGH, Monday.—Our Hop market remains steady at last week's advance on new Pockets and rather more inquiry for good 1826's and 1827's. Currency: New Sussex Pockets, 7l. 15s. to 9l.; Kent, 8l. to 10l. 10s.; choice, 11l. to 13l. 13s. 1828, 6l. to 7l. 10s. 1827, 86s. to 96s. 1826, 80s. to 90s. In our last week's account of the Worcester duty, the amount is 2,029l. 10s. 5d., instead of 2,429l. 10s. 5d.

MAIDSTONE, Dec. 2.—Our Hop trade continues very dull, for, although the duty is come out and falls so much short of what it was laid at, still there has been little or no alteration in the trade worth notice.

WORCESTER, Dec. 1.—The amount of the Duty for this district is stated at 2,094l. New Hops are on the advance.

SMITHFIELD—Dec. 6.

There is to-day a large market of Beef, and very fair of Mutton. Choice Scots obtain 4s., and the best selling Lincolns 3s. 8d. and 3s. 10d.; middling Beef is no better. The trade for Sheep may, doubtless, be considered a shade lower than last week, so that our last top prices are only made for any thing very complete. For the general trade to-day we call Downs 4s. 4d.; half-breds, with difficulty, 4s. 2d.; and the white-faced light weights, rather under 4s. There is but little alteration in Veal, the best in very few instances exceeding a crown. Beasts, 3,135; Calves, 100; Sheep, 21,680; Pigs 190.

SMITHFIELD—Thursday.

This day's market exhibited about 30 highly-fattened oxen and steers, of exceedingly fine symmetry; the best of which were 10 Herefords, estimated to weigh, on the average, about 175 stone, of 8 lbs. each, belonging to Mr. Rowland, of Crislow, Bucks; but was otherwise but indifferently supplied. The prime Beasts abovementioned went off slowly, at from 4s. 2d. to 4s. 6d., whilst prime small Calves sold readily at an advance of 2d. per stone; but the trade was, otherwise, very dull, at little or any variation from Monday's quotations.—Prime Beef, from 3s. 4d. to 4s. 4d.; middling Beef, 2s. 6d. to 2s. 10d.; inferior Beef, 2s. 4d. to 2s. 6d. Prime Mutton, 3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d.; middling Mutton, 2s. 6d. to 3s.; inferior Mutton, 2s. 2d. to 2s. 4d. Veal, 3s. 4d. to 5s. 4d. Pork, 3s. 2d. to 4s. 8d.—per stone of 8 lbs., to sink the offal. Suckling Calves, from 12s. to 38s.; and quarter-old store Pigs, 12s. to 18s. each. Supply, as per Clerk's statement: Beasts, 506; Sheep, 3,700; Calves, 188; Pigs, 130.

PROVISIONS.

But little has been done in Bacon during the last week. The holders of Butter can sell only in small quantities at the prices quoted. The Cheese trade continues dull. Prices are higher in the country than here. Failures of small traders are taking place almost daily; and the wholesale dealers are apprehensive of an increase.

Bacon, Middles, old... 34s. to 32s. per cwt.

— new, 46s. to 47s.

— Sides, old... 35s. to 38s.

— new, 46s. to 48s.

Beef, India, new... 115s. to —s. —d. per tr.

— Mess, new... 60s. to —s. per barrel.

Pork, India, new... 117s. 6d.

— Mess, new... 58s. to 60s. per barrel.

— old... 55s. to 57s. 6d.

— India, old... 110s. per tierce.

Butter, Belfast... 102s. to —s. per cwt.

— Carlow... 100s. to 105s.

— Cork... 102s. to 105s.

— Limerick... 102s. to 105s.

— Waterford... 96s. to 98s.

— Dublin... 100s.

— Dutch... 106s. to 102s.

Cheese, Cheshire, new 42s. to 70s.

— old 56s. to 84s.

THE FUNDS.

	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.
3 per Cent. } Cons. Ann. }	82½	83½	82½	83½	83½	83

MARK-LANE.—Friday, Dec. 10.

The supplies are small, but the prices have not altered since Monday. There is but little demand to-day for any-thing.

COBBETT'S LECTURES.

ON *Wednesday next, the 15th instant, at EIGHT o'clock in the evening*, I shall give a Lecture at the Great Theatre, at the Rotunda, Blackfriars Bridge (Surrey side), on the **CASE OF THE LABOURERS OF ENGLAND**. Having always, since I had the ability to do it, maintained the cause of this part of our countrymen, I *will not now neglect* my duty towards them, a duty the sacredness of which yields to no duty that imposes itself on man. In every possible way in which I have the power to aid them, that power shall be employed; and I call upon all just

Englishmen to second my efforts. New arrangements have been made for accommodation at the Rotunda, which has made a difference in the expense. There are a **PIT**, a **GALLERY**, and **BOXES**, the price of admission to the two former 3d., to the Boxes 6d.

HISTORY OF GEORGE IV.—I cannot promise No. 4 till the 1st of January. This case of the labourers demands all my time. I will devote it all to them, except what is absolutely demanded by my weekly dutise.

THE BALLOT. TAXES ON LITERATURE, &c. The Article on the Ballot, from the *Westminster Review*, has been carefully abridged, and is now published at the low price of One Penny, for extensive distribution. Persons in the Country, desirous of aiding forward the good cause, will be supplied at 6s. per hundred.

Also may be had, the Article on **THE SIX ACTS** especially **TAXES ON LITERATURE**, sixteen pages 8vo. 2d.

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